NPA torches Bayantel relay station in Camarines Sur

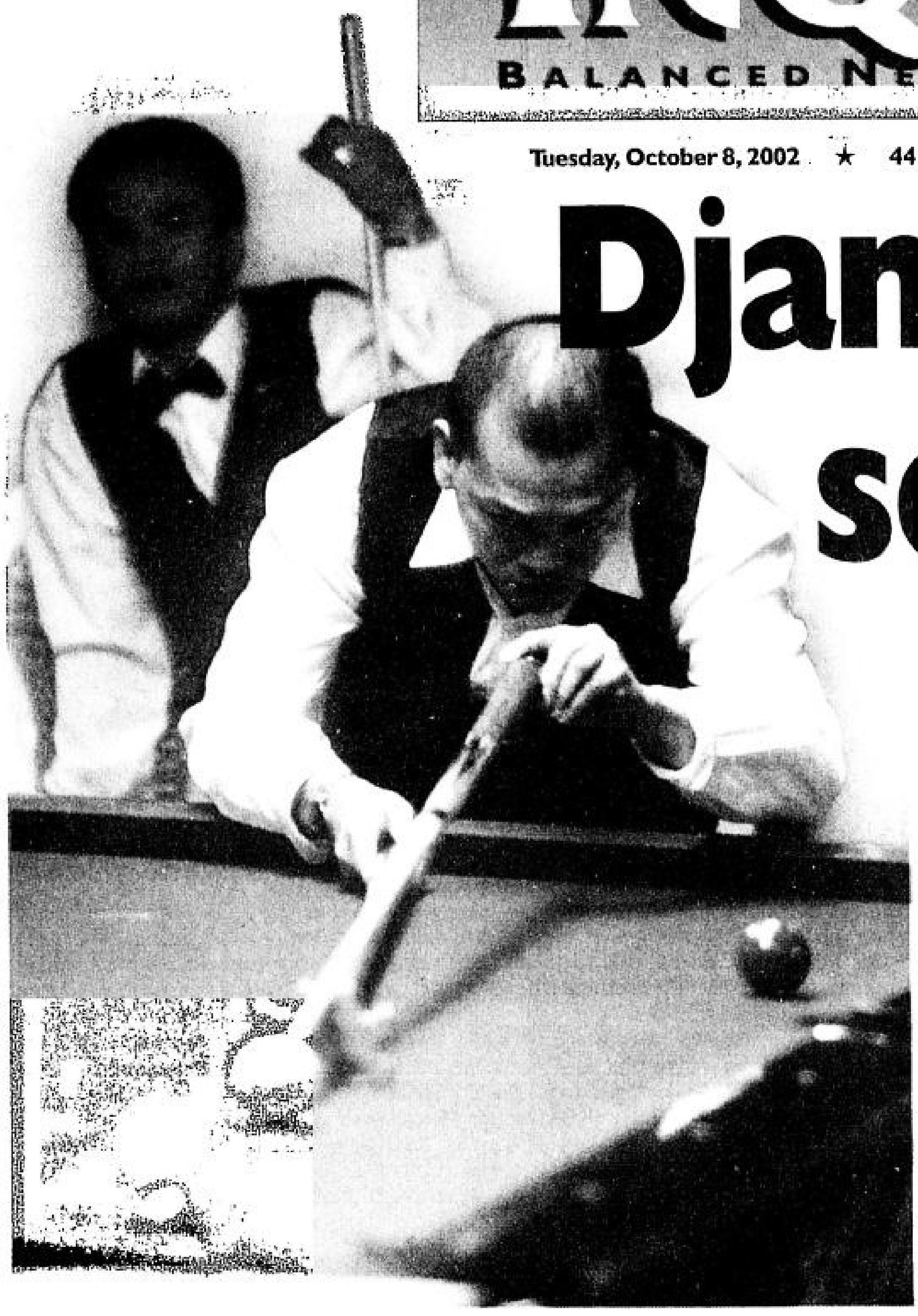
Story on PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Tuesday, October 8, 2002 ★ 44 pages / 3 sections / vol. 17 / no. 302 P15

website: www.inq7.net



ANTONIO Lining studies his shot during the 9-ball billiards' doubles final at the 14th Asian Games. Watching from behind is partner Francisco Bustamante. JESS YUSON

Django, Nikoy bag second RP gold

Bowlers win silver in 5-person event

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—After heart-breaking losses, the highly touted Philippine billiards team finally got a lucky break: Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Antonio "Nikoy" Lining yesterday won the 9-ball doubles event to give the country its second gold in the 14th Asian Games.

Bustamante and Lining bucked a slow start to beat the South Korean tandem of Jeong Young-hwa and Kim Won-suh, 11-9, in the finals of the 9-ball doubles event.

"We had a bad start and trailed them 0-3. But once we found our bearings, they couldn't stop us anymore," said the 38-year-old Bustamante, who hails from Tarlac, Tarlac.

The victory was doubly sweet for Lining, 38, who lost the bronze medal to Jeong, 3-11, in the 9-ball singles on Saturday. *"Nakabawi rin ako* (I feel vindicated)," said the cue artist from Calapan, Oriental Mindoro.

When the Filipinos forged a tie after 18 games, the Koreans suddenly went cold. Bustamante won the 19th game to give his team a one-game lead. In the next game, Lining bagged three balls in the break of his life, pocketed the next five balls and sank the 9-ball to clinch the country's first and only gold in the sport.

A total of 10 golds were offered on the table in billiards. Warren Kiamco won a silver in the 9-ball singles while world champion Efren "Bata" Reyes could only manage a bronze in the 8-ball singles.

For winning a gold, Bustamante and Lining will share an incentive prize of P1.5 million.

Bowlers Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista gave the

DJANGO/ A14

7 Crame guards face charges of negligence

By TJ Burgonio

DESPITE failing to establish that its jail personnel had received bribes for the escape of a Chinese suspected drug trafficker, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency charged seven of them with evasion through negligence.

Those slapped criminal charges be-

7 CRAME/ A14

Military asset charged with Sulu kidnapping

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Sulu provincial police yesterday filed kidnapping charges against Hadja Jarma Mohammad Imran, alias Hadja Lyn, prime suspect in the abduction of GMA 7 reporter Carlo Lorenzo and cameraman Gilbert Ordiales.

"She is now behind bars. We have filed two counts of kidnapping with serious illegal detention against her," Supt. Arip Baanan, Sulu police chief, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The cases were filed before the Jolo Municipal Trial Court despite the absence of Lorenzo and Ordiales. But Baanan said his deputy, Supt. Julasirim Kasim, served as co-complainant.

The GMA 7 personnel were seized on Sept. 28 while on assignment in Indanan town in Sulu. They were released on Oct. 2 without paying ransom, according to Gov. Yusop Jikiri. He said the kidnappers had demanded P7 million in ransom.

Lyn confirmed that she was detained at the Sulu provincial jail. "What they did was so unfair. They jailed me but the real kidnappers are still free," she said.

On Sunday, Lyn said three enlisted men under Capt. Alex Musngi (not Musngue as earlier reported), intelligence officer of the Army's 104th Brigade, were behind the abduction. She identified one of them as Cpl. Mohammad Ailani.

Lyn, a former real estate broker working with the military for the surrender of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) members, said she was charged in the absence of her lawyer, Asbi Edding, who is from Zamboanga City.

Baanan said Lyn was uncooperative. "She gave statements but refused to sign, but most of the time, she refused to give statements. Until now, we don't have the black and white investigation reports from her."

Lyn appealed to Lorenzo to tell the truth. "He (Lorenzo) is in the media. He should be fair. If he thinks that I have something to do with the kidnapping, he should investigate this. He should know who provided me the security escorts whom he accused of abducting him and

MILITARY/ A14

ITO ANG STARWARS!

Megastars oppose Bush

LOS ANGELES—As Washington rattles its saber at Saddam Hussein, a constellation of Hollywood megastars has come out to do public battle against President George W. Bush's policy toward Iraq.

In a town with a strong liberal tradition and long history of political activism, there is an increasing rumbling over Iraq coming from some top celebrities—although not all are opposed to a war with Baghdad.

MEGASTARS/ A4

Ople: Tuna war may spawn terror

KUALA LUMPUR—Philippine Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople yesterday said trade barriers against its tuna exports to the United States and Europe could wipe out 100,000 jobs for locals and aggravate terrorism in its southern provinces.

The United States and Europe allow duty-free imports of tuna from Andean countries but slapped tariffs on canned tuna from the Philippines, where tuna production is a $200-million industry.

The Philippines, along with Thailand, has challenged the European practice of granting preferential tariff treatment in favor of the tuna exports of certain African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

The three parties last month agreed to World Trade Organization (WTO) mediation to resolve the dispute.

OPLE/ A14

Bishops join clamor vs US attack on Iraq

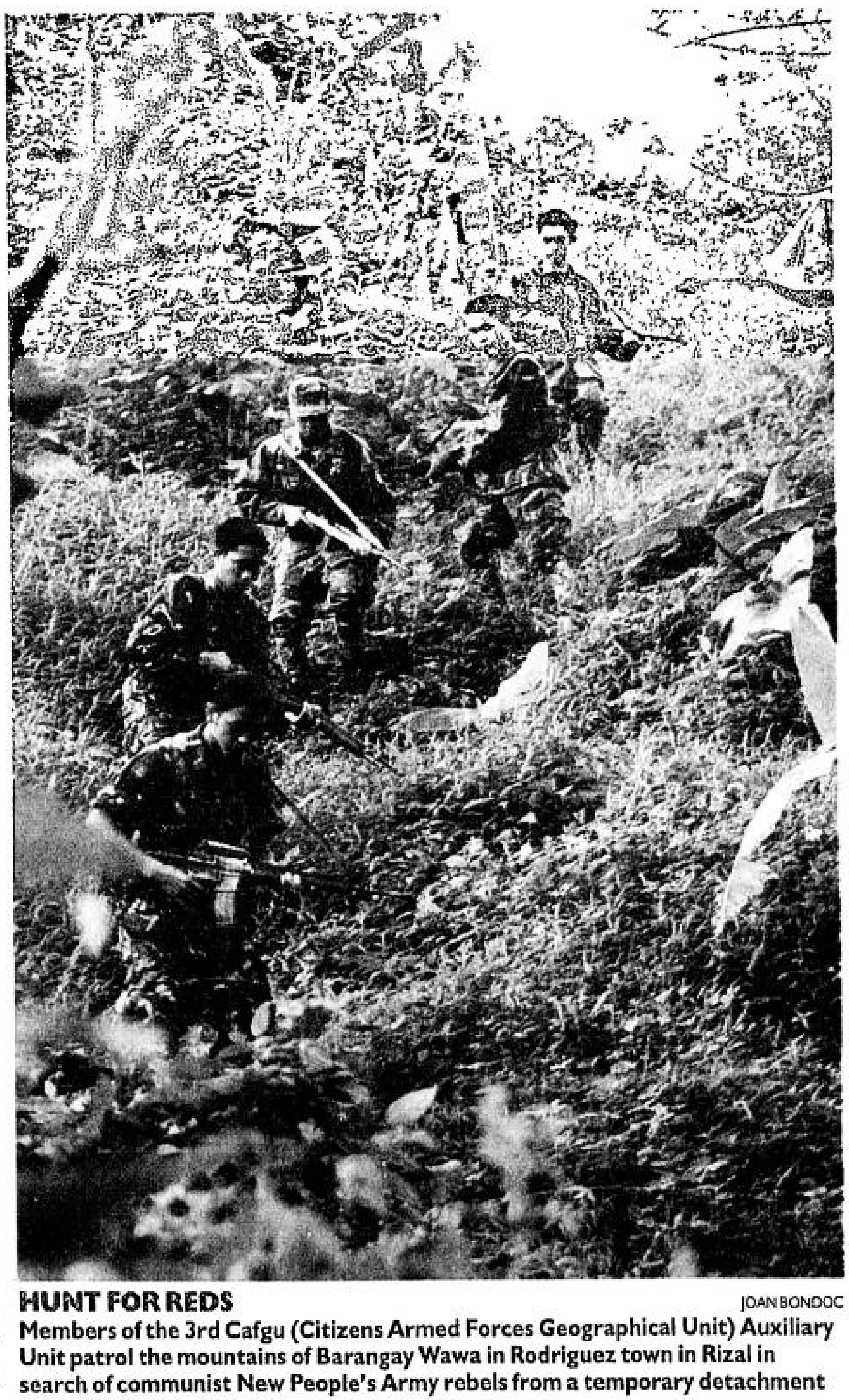
THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines has included its voice among the international calls for the US government to hold off an attack on Iraq.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the influential group, said in a statement that the CBCP was taking the position of the Vatican that the US government "respect the authority of the United Nations as a family of nations and not attack Iraq without any UN mandate."

The CBCP also called for the lifting of the embargo on the people of Iraq, which, according to peace advocates, had caused suffering particularly among Iraqi women and children. The US government imposed the trade embargo on Aug. 6, 1990, days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Quevedo warned that a war on Iraq could have "unpredictable consequences not only for Iraq but (also) for peace and stability elsewhere in the

BISHOPS/ A4



HUNT FOR REDS JOAN BONDOC
Members of the 3rd Cafgu (Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit) Auxiliary Unit patrol the mountains of Barangay Wawa in Rodriguez town in Rizal in search of communist New People's Army rebels from a temporary detachment set up in that place.

Zambo cops find 2 more witnesses in bomb attack

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Police have taken into custody two more witnesses to the Oct. 3 bomb attack on a bar here that killed an American soldier and two Filipino civilians, and wounded another American and several other Filipinos.

Supt. Marvin Bola-bola, regional chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said the new witnesses' description of the suspects jibed with that of previous witnesses.

The Agence France Presse said four suspects had been arrested in a raid in the coastal village of Talon-talon of a suspected hideout of the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf.

It quoted a certain police commander Simeon Dizon as confirming the arrests but declining to comment whether the arrests were linked to the bomb attack. The AFP did not identify the arrested men.

Local television reports said those arrested were a Muslim man, his wife and daughter, and a friend. Relatives said men in fatigues and believed to be military intelligence agents barged into their home before dawn and dragged away the four.

"They did not show warrants and took them away," a relative of those arrested, who did not want to be named, said. "They were armed with automatic rifles."

The relative denied that those arrest-

ZAMBO/ A14

40,000 Pinoys get papers, can return to Sabah

SOME 40,000 Filipinos expelled from Sabah during a crackdown on illegal migrants have been issued proper passports and documents and can now return to the Malaysian-claimed territory without fear of being arrested, President Macapagal-Arroyo said Monday.

The repatriation of Filipinos under allegedly dire conditions caused a diplomatic rift between the neighbors, with at least one girl complaining of being raped by Malaysian guards while in detention.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad later declared a moratorium on the arrests and allowed Philippine investigators to check on the plight of the

40,000/ A15

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/08/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

NPA torches Bayantel relay station

By Martin P. Marfil and Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE NEW People's Army in Bicol continued with its offensives despite military threats to wipe it out with battle plan "Gordian Knot."

On Saturday, some 25 suspected members of the rebel group burned down the P80-million relay station of Bayan Telecommunications Co. (Bayantel) in Bula, Camarines Sur.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo said the rebels entered the station at 3:15 p.m. and announced that they were going to burn it down.

They overpowered the guard and two technicians before proceeding to the powerhouse and radio room where they poured gasoline which they lit. The group then took a two-way radio and fled.

Senior Supt. Roberto Ronggavilla, Camarines Sur police director, said the incident was reported to the Bula police several hours later by Renante Gulpo, 35, caretaker of the relay station.

Gulpo said the rebels were armed with high-powered firearms.

Ronggavilla did not say if Gulpo and technicians Oliver Dizon and Sebastian Estifane were hurt by the rebels.

Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, Bicol police director, visited the burned relay station and ordered security tightened at communication and other vital facilities throughout the region.

In recent weeks, the NPA had stepped up attacks on civilian targets, destroying equipment in quarries near Metro Manila and raiding police stations for arms. This culminated in the killing of the police chief and a policeman in Lopez, Quezon, last week.

Gordian Knot

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor then ordered Operation Gordian Knot "to break the knots of rebellion, poverty and other ills that were besetting the country."

Yesterday, the military announced the capture of three suspected NPA members who were believed to have participated in the Lopez attack, in Capalonga, Camarines Norte, on Saturday.

A report by Lt. Col. Emiliano Gupana of the 31st Infantry Battalion to Brig. Gen. Santiago Prejido said suspected NPA members Martin Acayin, alias Simeon, and a certain Jerry, together with couple Jose and Beatriz de Vera and two others, were extorting food and revolutionary taxes from residents of the area when an Army team chanced upon them.

Acayin reportedly belonged to the NPA Front Committee 72 operating in Camarines Norte, while the De Vera couple were said to be staunch members and runners for the NPA.

The three other rebels escaped during the firefight that ensued. Recovered from the scene was an Armalite rifle.

Sabotage averted

In another incident, Sorsogon police foiled an attempt by some 15 suspected NPA members to sabotage a municipal irrigation construction project and seize the explosives being used to destroy boulders at the project site in Barangay Pandan, Castilla, Sorsogon on Sunday.

Two police officers were wounded in the 15-minute encounter, while some of the dissidents may have been killed or wounded, said Senior Supt. Arne de los Santos in a report to Tor.

De los Santos identified the wounded as PO3 Aldin Dioneda, brother of former Bacon Mayor Leovic Dioneda, and PO3 Marino Moraleta. Both were taken to the Sorsogon Provincial Hospital. He did not say what happened to the rebels or how he knew some may have been hit.

SPO1 Ernesto Enage, team leader, said they were guarding the project site when he noticed a group of armed men at the top of a hill, some 60 meters away.

Enage said the group fired upon the soldiers, prompting the latter to return fire with an M203 grenade launcher.

Another group of rebels, however, were positioned behind them and caught them in a crossfire, hitting Dioneda in the back and Moraleta in the nape, Enage said.

Neutralize them

In the wake of the attacks, Defensor ordered heightened security at all military camps, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion said.

Ground commanders were also ordered "to initiate strategies to locate the NPA" in their areas and neutralize them, he said.

Purificacion also said he was confident the military could counter any NPA threat to the 600 American troops scheduled to arrive this week for month-long war games in Luzon. *With Tony S. Macasinag and Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and AFP reports*

Addressing studes, GMA lashes out at civil groups

WHAT'S with civil society groups that they continue to irk President Macapagal-Arroyo?

Yesterday, out of the blue, Ms Macapagal criticized civil society groups anew while addressing Filipino-Chinese elementary and high school students at Malacañang.

The students, accompanied by Filipino-Chinese Business Club members, had turned in their donations for the Filipino deportees from Sabah.

Ms Macapagal was starting to thank the students for their civic spiritedness when she suddenly digressed from her topic.

"*Pag iniisip natin yung* NGOs, *yung* civil society *iniisip natin yung nagpapatalsik ng pamahalaan, na masama*(When we think of NGOs and civil society groups, we think of those who are bad, who topple governments)," she said.

She said civil society groups should just stick to helping those in need, like the students.

"*Ang trabaho ng* civil society *lalo ngayon ay kung paano yung lakas na napakita noong araw na pwedeng magpatalsik ng pamahalaan dalawang beses ay magamit para matulungan yung mga kapuspalad sa ating bansa.* (What civil society should do is to use the force they used to topple two administrations to help the less fortunate in our country)," Ms Macapagal said.

Earlier, Ms Macapagal had accused the Council of Philippine Affairs (Copa) of trying to destabilize her administration.

She had called Copa spokesperson Pastor "Boy" Saycon a "termite."

The Filipino-Chinese students who came from 22 schools collected two truckloads of clothes and other supplies for the deportees. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

LDP bares '04 slate

THE OPPOSITION Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino announced yesterday the first candidates in its senatorial lineup for 2004.

LDP spokesperson Ramon Bagatsing Jr. said early bets are incumbent Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Teresa Aquino-Oreta and former senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Francisco Tatad.

Bagatsing said other candidates "who have been invited to join the LDP and were inclined to accept the offer" were House minority leader Carlos Padilla, Leyte Rep. Ted Failon and Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte.

Bagatsing said Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. of PDP-Laban will be asked to join the slate. Other political personalities being eyed to join the LDP team are North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel "Manny" Piñol and Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, he said. *Rocky Nazareno*

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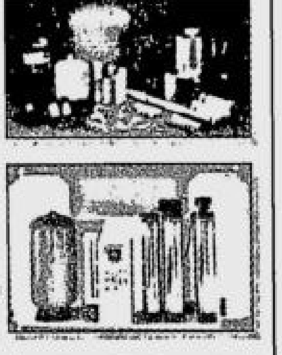

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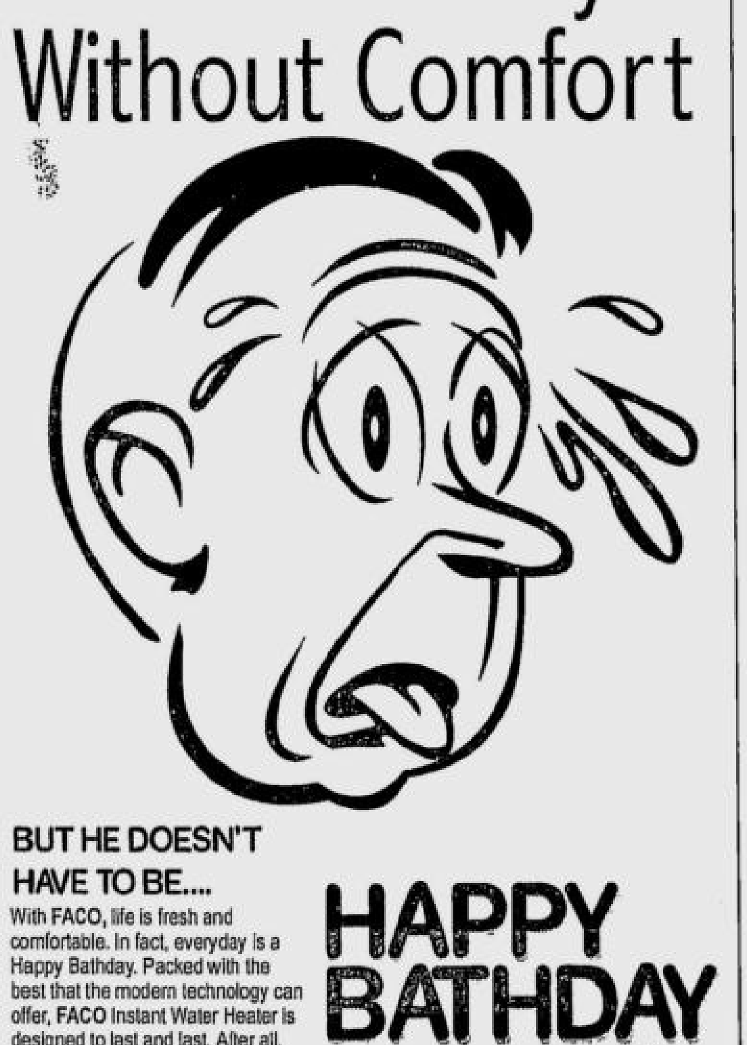

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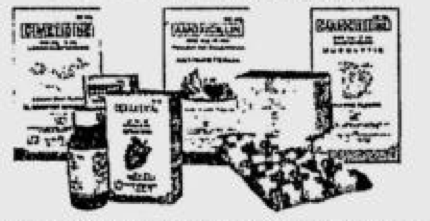

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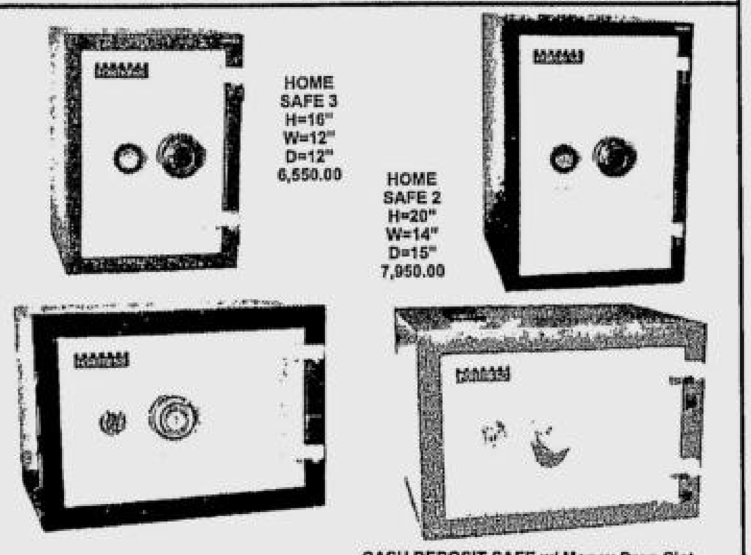
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OFWs held in Saudi car blast

THREE overseas Filipino workers were nabbed by Saudi Arabian authorities last week for alleged involvement in a car explosion that killed a German citizen in Riyadh.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said the Filipinos were being held incommunicado pending completion of the police probe. Their names were not released.

A DFA official said the offense was a "high crime" in Saudi Arabia, but it wasn't clear how the three were implicated in the incident. He said the Filipinos were documented workers.

The Saudi Gazette reported that the blast on Sept. 29 was the latest in a series of violent incidents related to the smuggling of liquor into the Muslim country.

Police had gone the next day to the apartment of the victim, Maximillan Graf, and chanced upon the Filipinos there working on computers. *Norman Bordadora*

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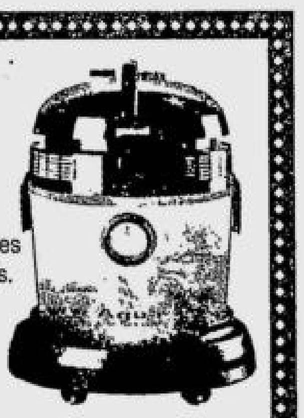

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Megastars against Bush

From page A1

However, with their names alone able to generate headlines and yards of press coverage, many have chosen to throw their weight into the political debate surrounding a possible US- and British-led war against Iraq.

Diva Barbra Streisand led the attack on Bush, telling a star-studded audience on Sunday that she found his administration "frightening" and slamming its alleged bellicose stance and failure to protect civil rights.

"I find bringing the country to the brink of war unilaterally five weeks before an election questionable—and very, very frightening," the singer and actress told a Democratic party fundraiser in Hollywood.

Streisand is the biggest Tinseltown personality to take aim at Bush's eagerness to oust Saddam by force, but a growing list of stars is joining the movement.

On Friday several hundred celebrities and intellectuals published a manifesto titled "Not in our Name" in the Los Angeles Times, urging Americans to resist their government's policies.

"We call on the people of the US to resist the policies and overall political direction that have emerged since Sept. 11, 2001, and which pose grave dangers to the people of the world," they wrote.

Among the signatories were "JFK" movie director Oliver Stone, "Gosford Park" filmmaker Robert Altman, British-born Terry Gilliam, actress Jane Fonda, "Lethal Weapon" star Danny Glover and Susan Sarandon, star of "Thelma and Louise."

Military expansion

Oscar-winning Sarandon and longtime partner Tim Robbins went even further during the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, publicly voicing their fears about a war with Iraq and saying they were opposed to "military expansion."

"I don't think that a military expansion of violence is the solution," Sarandon said. "No, I don't think I would want to go to war against Iraq."

Sarandon and Robbins joined a protest rally in New York's Central Park on Sunday. Protest organizers said Bush, motivated by a thirst for power and control of oil reserves, was lying to the country about the need for an attack on Iraq and the war against terrorism.

"We don't believe in war for oil," Robbins said.

"Tootsie" star Jessica Lange weighed in while in Madrid last week, saying military action on Iraq as "wrong, immoral and basically illegal.

"It makes me feel ashamed to come from the United States. It is humiliating."

But while many stars have come out against military action, some have backed it, creating something of an ideological divide in usually superficial Tinseltown.

Cruise for Bush

Superstar Tom Cruise and movie magnate Steven Spielberg backed Bush's stance during a publicity tour to Italy last month.

"If Bush, as I believe, has reliable information on the fact that Saddam Hussein is making weapons of mass destruction, I cannot not support the policies of his government," Spielberg said, adding that Bush's policies were "solid and rooted in reality."

Cruise also came to Washington's side, saying he believed "Saddam has committed many crimes against humanity and against his own people."

The sudden reemergence of the strident brand of "star activism" reminiscent of the Vietnam War era has caused some critics to question the competence of Hollywood movie stars and filmmakers to get involved in politics.

But political science professor Sherry Bebitch Jeffe disagreed, saying they were as entitled as anyone else to express themselves.

"Just because a person is a celebrity, he or she does not have to give up his or her first amendment rights, it's as simple as that," she said.

Tradition of activism

"I think that actors have always been activists, there's more attention paid to them," she said, adding that the tradition went back to the 1950s era of the McCarthy anti-communist "witch-hunts" and World War II.

However, the University of Southern California academic warned that stars' power to influence policy may be more limited than people like Streisand would like to think.

"Hollywood does not have much influence on public opinion, but (Streisand) raises enough money for the Democratic party that people have to at least listen to what she has to say."

Anti-war protests were held in San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Portland, Oregon and some smaller communities on Sunday, with marchers calling Bush a "warmonger," "racist" and "irresponsible."

AFP, AP

RP boosts port security after French supertanker blast

THE PHILIPPINES on Monday boosted security at all sea and airports to thwart possible attacks after a mystery explosion tore a gaping hole in the hull of a French supertanker off the Arabian Sea coast of Yemen.

Philippine Coast Guard chief Vice Admiral Ruben Lista was also asked to coordinate closely with intelligence officials in the wake of the explosion on the tanker.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza "has asked that all land, sea and airports enforce stricter security measures in the wake of the incident," department spokesperson Thompson Lantion said.

Lista is to "coordinate with the intelligence network to be able to know beforehand if there would be similar attacks" in the Philippines, Lantion added.

French Embassy officials in San'a said Sunday's blast was caused by a small boat packed with explosives, but the foreign ministry later said there was no evidence so far of an attack, which came one week before the two-year anniversary of the bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen's Aden harbor.

Philippine officials have been on alert since last month amid reports that Islamic militants were planning to hit US embassies across the region to mark the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Last week, a US soldier and two Filipinos were killed in a bombing in Zamboanga City that was blamed on the Abu Sayyaf, a bandit group that the US listed as part of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

The French military attaché in Yemen, identified as Colonel Vial, told France's LCI television: "This (supertanker) explosion occurred at the same moment as a small boat approached the tanker, which could indicate it is not an accidental explosion."

But he added: "Other sources tell us it was an accidental explosion."

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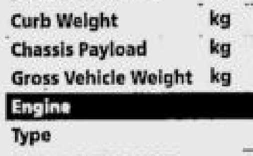

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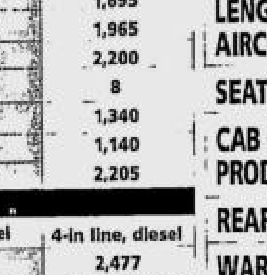

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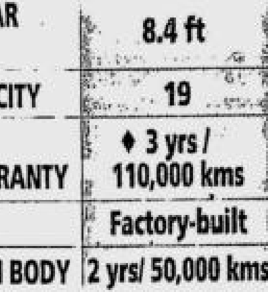

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Bishops join clamor vs US attack on Iraq

From page A1

Middle East."

He likewise noted that American bishops themselves had objected to any attack on that country on the basis of the moral principle of "double effect."

He cited a recent letter by the US Conference of Bishops to President George W. Bush, wherein the bishops said that "preemptive, unilateral use of force is difficult to justify at this time."

Peace advocates and people's organizations worldwide conducted a coordinated day of protest against "US wars of aggression" yesterday, the first anniversary of the start of US attacks on Afghanistan.

In Manila, around 50 members of the militant group Sanlakas and the anti-war coalition Peace Camp marched to the US Embassy to protest the US plan to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"One year after waging a useless and senseless war in Afghanistan, the United States is pushing forward for another one, this time against Iraq, and is probably looking for more," Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said in a press statement.

Fortaleza noted that the Bush administration had been repeating warnings that it would strike Iraq anytime, "raising fears that he would act unilaterally."

"It appears that Bush is desperately looking for more wars than aggressively working for a peaceful and terrorism-free world," Fortaleza said. "It looks like the veiled objective of these wars is more of the US drive for hegemony and economic expansionism."

The members of Sanlakas and Peace Camp said that in marching to the US Embassy, they wanted to show their opposition to US wars and their solidarity with "millions of people in the world, Americans included, who want peace, not war."

They also assailed the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo for supposedly "toeing the Bush line" and putting at risk the lives of Filipino workers in the Middle East.

'Minimum disruption'

At a news briefing in Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye dismissed the possibility of sharp oil price increases in the event of a US-Iraq war.

Bunye said that at a meeting Tuesday last week with members of the Cabinet and the National Security Council present, "somebody made a comment that the price of oil would go up so high."

"That statement was shot down because that is not likely to happen," he said.

Malacañang had earlier said it expected the war to be swift and over in a matter of days because the US government would unleash its full force on Iraq.

Bunye said what they expected was a "minimum disruption of economic activities."

He said the Philippines' contingency plans centered on a sufficient oil supply and the safety of around 1.5 million Filipino workers in the Middle East.

Malacañang had also said that another massive evacuation of Filipino workers like what happened during the 1991 US-Iraq war was unlikely because the planned US attack on Iraq was not expected to spill over to neighboring countries. *Reports from Armand N. Nocum, Philip C. Tubeza and Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

Alleged payola traced to Loi's account

STATE prosecutors yesterday presented in court another bank officer who traced the flow of alleged gambling protection money to jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada.

The prosecutors tracked an P8-million check to the Citibank account of Estrada's wife, now Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, and another check for P46.35 million to the Citibank account of businessman William Gatchalian.

Witness Patrick Cheng, a Citibank branch division head, testified yesterday that the two checks had been drawn against a Metrobank account of Estrada's self-confessed bagman, former Ilocos Sur governor Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Cheng said the P46.35-million check went into Gatchalian's account at Citibank-Makati on Aug. 21, 1999, while the P8-million check was deposited in Ejercito's account with the Greenhills branch on Oct. 4 that same year.

Cheng's testimony corroborated Singson's earlier testimony on how he went about handling the alleged jueteng payola money for Estrada, according to Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida who conducted the direct examination.

Singson had testified that Estrada had "loaned" P65 million to Gatchalian, of which P46.35 million was drawn from the Metrobank account that Singson maintained as a depository for Estrada's alleged jueteng kickbacks.

The P8 million represented the "interest" that Estrada collected from the loan to Gatchalian, Singson testified.

As Estrada wanted the P8.4 million interest "in advance," he allegedly asked Singson to get the money from the Metrobank deposits while waiting for Gatchalian to pay up.

Singson said he issued the P8 million "pay to cash" check and gave it to Estrada. The check later ended up in Ejercito's Citibank account, as testimony in Estrada's impeachment trial later established. *Volt Contreras*

Shell hikes LPG prices

LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) prices went up yesterday by P14 per cylinder, only one month after an P11 increase imposed by the top oil firms in the country.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and TotalFinaElf cited a fresh round of increases in world market prices as the reason for their move.

Shellane started selling LPG at P273 to 279 at noon yesterday. New prices for Total Gaz took effect midnight Sunday.

Petron and Caltex have not announced LPG price hikes.

Caltex corporate affairs manager Marian Catedral said the company was still observing industry "movements."

This is the third LPG price increase in two months, starting with an P8.80 per cylinder hike in August.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) spokesperson Renato Reyes urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to "intervene, if she really cared for the Filipino family."

He announced a series of protest rallies that his group was set to mount in the next few days.

Petroleum prices started to rise steeply in the wake of war threats by the US against Iraq. *Abigail L. Ho*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 17 No. 302
ISSN 0116-2642

OPINION

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

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Control over the police

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo last Friday gave the 17 Metro Manila mayors operational supervision and control over the local police. The President is now reported to be considering giving back to the mayors all over the nation control over their police forces if the setup to be tested in Metro Manila proves to be more efficient in maintaining law and order.

The mayors have long been asking for such a setup, and it is good that it is finally going to be tested in Metro Manila. Actually, this is nothing new, because Republic Act 8551, which amended RA 6975, the Philippine National Police Law, gives the mayors operational control and supervision over the police.

To be sure, there are misgivings about giving mayors control and supervision over local police forces. Some people have expressed the fear that the mayors might again transform the local police forces into their private armies and use them in the elections to terrorize voters. Some said that mayors would commit abuses and irregularities with the help of the police.

But times have changed. For one, the citizens are more alert and vigilant now. They have ousted two corrupt presidents; they should have an easier time ousting abusive mayors. They will not permit their mayors to use the police forces to promote their selfish interests. The voters have the power of recall and they can always use this to kick out of office any mayor who abuses the power of control over the police.

For another, there are the media which will expose any abuse or irregularity that may be committed by mayors with the help of the police forces. In this age of electronic media, any mayor who commits abuses with the help of the police will soon find himself in the 6 p.m. newscast or in tomorrow's headlines or facing a case before the Office of the Ombudsman.

In the past, the mayor could employ any policemen he liked. Now, a recruit must first graduate from the police academy and pass a civil service exam before he can join the police force. A policeman cannot be fired without cause and due process; the mayor can still hire and fire him but he must the follow the rules. The mayor's power of appointment is also subject to the final approval of the National Police Commission. Thus, the mayor cannot practice favoritism in the appointment of police officers.

Ultimately, it is the mayor who is responsible for maintaining law and order in his city or town. It is the mayor who is held accountable if the local police do not perform their duties well and so it is only logical that the police, in turn, must be accountable to the mayor.

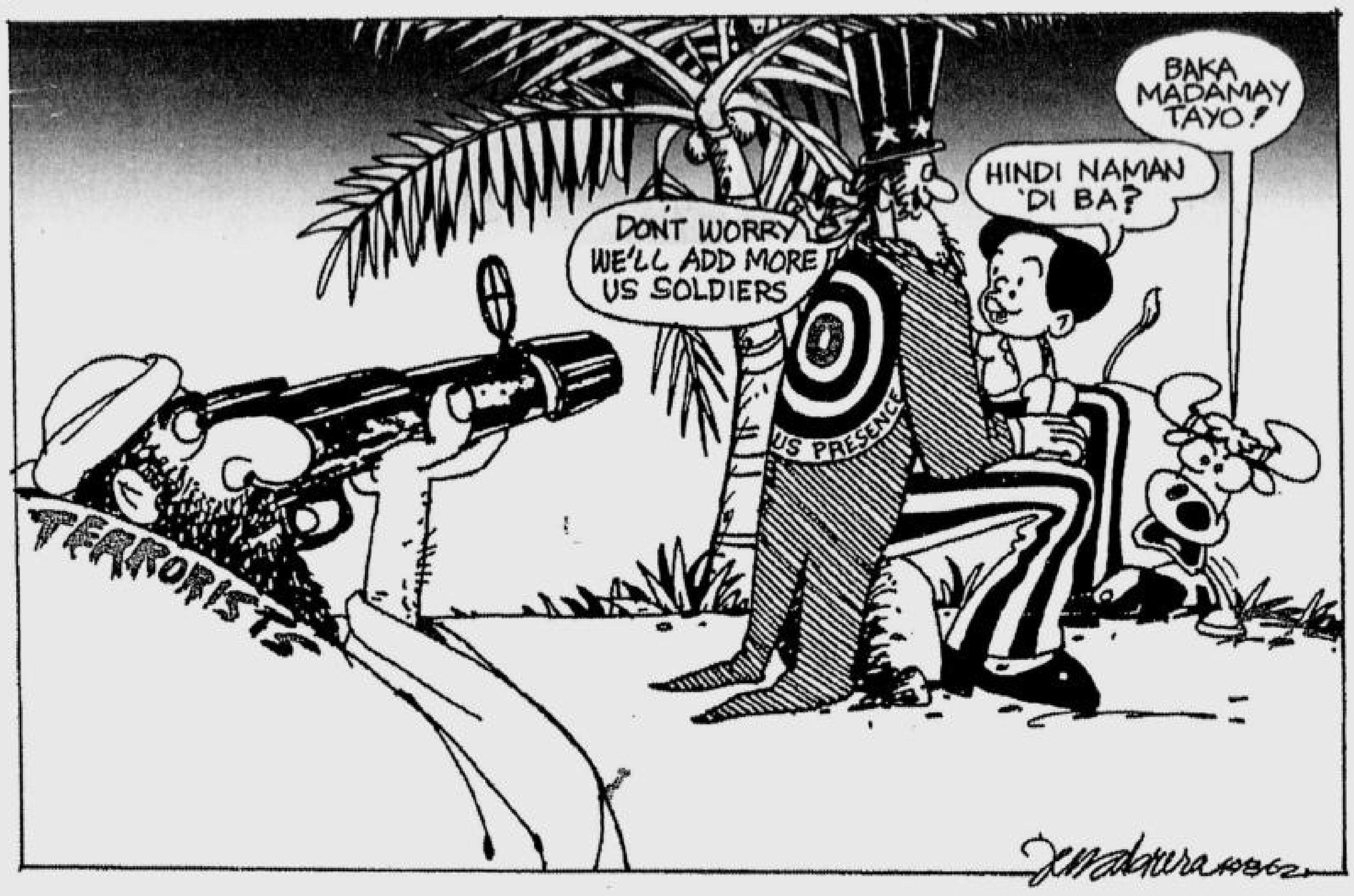
The mayors have to be given the right to select their own police chiefs. Mayors cannot effectively carry out their function of maintaining peace and order if they are at odds with their police chiefs.

The problem of disciplining erring policemen should also be easier under the new setup. The PNP is a huge organization composed of 193,000 officers and men. Cases have been filed against erring policemen but because of the size of the organization and the number of cases filed, not enough attention is being given to these cases. With the police forces under the control of the mayors, they can more easily spot the erring policemen in the smaller units that they control and have them disciplined and punished.

The move to give mayors supervision and control over the local police should go hand in hand with the assignment, whenever possible, of policemen to the communities where they live. If such an arrangement is followed, the policemen will be more knowledgeable about the law and order situation in the communities to which they will be assigned and they will be more attentive and responsive to their needs. After all, they will also be looking after the safety and security of their own families.

The law and order situation in many cities and towns is deteriorating. Despite the claims of the police, the incidence of crime is increasing. Kidnappings, robberies, killings and rapes are occurring at an alarming rate. The mayors have to be given the means to stem the rising tide of criminality. One of these means is the grant to the mayors of operational control and supervision over the local police.

We hope that the current experiment in Metro Manila will be successful so that the new setup, with proper safeguards against abuses, can be adopted all over the nation.



Speed is very important in recall election

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

(Continued from yesterday)

IN EARLIER columns, I criticized the recall of local officials through a mere resolution of the so-called Preparatory Recall Assembly (PRA), which is composed of barangay officials. Under the PRA, a score of highly partisan barangay officials can overturn the wishes of tens of thousands of voters who elected the sitting mayor. The barangay officials can easily be bought and manipulated by enemies of the mayor. In fact, that was what the supporters of Puerto Princesa Mayor Dennis Socrates claim. The PRA that instituted the recall of the mayor, they say, was manipulated by former Mayor Edward Hagedorn—a charge which the latter of course denies.

The method of recall was not in the original provision of the Local Government Code, according to its author, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. It was inserted at the insistence of a congressman. The original method called for a petition signed by 25 percent of the voters of a city or municipality. This was a better way.

I agree. But in the case of the recall of Socrates, the voters themselves have already expressed loss of confidence in their mayor. Not only 25 percent but more than 66 percent of the Puerto Princesa electorate said, through their votes, that they have lost confidence in Socrates. If we add the 13,241 votes for the third candidate, Vicente Sandoval III, to the 20,238 votes for Hagedorn, that's 33,479 voters who have lost confidence in Socrates, as against the 17,220 voters who still want him, a ratio of almost two-to-one.

And as we said yesterday, the main purpose of a recall election is not so much to elect a new mayor, but rather to recall a local elective official who has lost the confidence of the electorate. The people of Puerto Princesa have stated very clearly in the Sept. 24, 2002 recall election that they have no more confidence in their mayor. Despite the Supreme Court order restraining the Commission on Elections from proclaiming a winning candidate, Socrates has effectively been recalled.

That is why the Supreme Court should lose no time in deciding the case and lifting the TRO. Time is of the essence in recall election. The choice of the people must be immediately effected. In the words of a pleading on the case to the Supreme Court, "to delay the result is to anesthetize the will of the electorate. The result of the election must be implemented immediately without prejudice to the remedies available to the electorate/candidate on the eligibility of the choice of the people…The term of the incumbent official subject of the recall election is terminated upon the election and proclamation of the candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast during the election recall."

To delay is fraught with danger because the official recalled, knowing that his days are numbered, may use the few days left to his advantage, perhaps tampering with government records, taking liberties with government funds, appointing his people to choice positions and wreaking vengeance on those who did not support him. In fact, seven administrative and criminal charges have already been filed by the outgoing administration against 10 city employees for being absent from an emergency meeting called by Mayor Socrates.

Legal doubts on the qualification of Hagedorn to run in the recall election is no reason to thwart the sovereign will of the people. That would undermine the purpose of the recall election. Recall election was put in the law as a legal mechanism available to the people when they have lost trust and confidence in an official's ability to discharge his office previously bestowed upon him. Doubts about the qualification of his successor should not be used to frustrate the sovereign will.

In the words of the Supreme Court in Frivaldo vs. Comelec, "This Court has time and again liberally and equitably construed the electoral laws of our country to give fullest effect to the manifest will of our people, for in case of doubt, political laws must be interpreted to give life and spirit to the popular mandate freely expressed through the ballot. Otherwise stated, legal niceties and technicalities cannot stand in the way of the sovereign will."

In case of doubt, the remedy is not to delay the recall of the official and the proclamation of his successor but to file a petition for *quo warranto*, said the Comelec and this was echoed by Hagedorn's counsel.

Section 253 of the Omnibus Election Code and Section 1, Rule 36 of the 1993 Comelec Rules of Procedure are very clear:

"A voter contesting the election of a municipal official on the ground of ineligibility or disloyalty to the Republic of the Philippines may file a petition for *quo warranto* with the appropriate Regional Trial Court."

The plea to disqualify Hagedorn refers to his eligibility to seek office because of the three-term limit rule, and not for any election offense which is penal. The proper remedy, therefore, is *quo warranto*. But such a petition should be filed within 10 days after proclamation. So without a proclamation, no petition for *quo warranto* can be filed. Shouldn't the Court allow Hagedorn's proclamation first so that Socrates can avail himself of the proper remedy?

One very big fight

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

OF course, I was thrilled by the Ateneo-La Salle game last Saturday. Quite apart from the fact that it was the game of the year, a game filled with all the elements of great drama, I had quite personal reasons to feel so.

I spent my high school and college years in the Ateneo, a fact that never ceases to surprise people who always assume I am from UP—the reason for that assumption being that I do not exactly look like I could afford that school. Well, I most assuredly could not, except that I didn't spend a single cent for it (and even managed to save a few bucks from my allowance), for which I am eternally grateful. Of course I dropped out shortly before graduation, which is a long story, and of course my good friends are from UP, which is part of that long story. But I studied at the Ateneo.

My son, however, is a first-year high school student at La Salle. He loves everything about sports, except—and this is probably something he got from me—playing them. He likes them in virtual form, and rattles off stats like a pro. To say that he has been infected with La Salle's devotion to its basketball team is to say that Brazilians have been infected with football fever. For him, Mike Cortez isn't a player, he is the messiah taking corporeal form anew.

I can't say I blame him. We watched an earlier game between Ateneo and La Salle a couple of months ago at the Araneta Coliseum, and it was the first time I grasped the full significance of the concept. Yes, concept: it is more than a game, it is a concept. The tickets came by like rain in the heart of El Niño, and scalpers were having a ball shaving heads. As it was, we were lost in the recesses of the bleachers, though it was perfectly fine with me. We could see everything clearly from there—that is, until the game began. Then there was little to see except the backs of people and heads bobbing up and down.

I exaggerate, of course. But everyone was on his feet and you wonder why they paid good money to have a seat. Everyone was shouting his head off (amazingly, there seemed to be more girls than boys in the crowd) which, combined with the incessant pounding of the drums and crashing of cymbals from the bands of both schools, gave off the carnival atmosphere of New Year's Eve.

This was the regular season, and La Salle ripped Ateneo to shreds. Part of the reason for it was that Richie Alvarez sat out that game on a suspension. But that was just a small part of it. Even with him playing, I thought, Ateneo didn't have a chance. La Salle moved like a well-oiled machine, making lightning raids in its offense and standing their ground in defense like the 300 Spartans. By contrast, Ateneo played individually, and despite occasional brilliance from Enrico Villanueva, they looked like patsies altogether. Paradoxically, because La Salle played as a team, Cortez shone out in dazzling glory.

La Salle went on to decimate the field, en route to a near-perfect regular season. Ateneo barely made it to the finals. The wise money lay with La Salle, notwithstanding that its only defeat came from Ateneo. After La Salle drew even the other weekend, I thought that was the end of the fairy tale, reality was going to strike like the staff of a Zen master falling on a sleeping disciple's head.

This time, my son and I watched the game at home. We had to rush back after some errands; he was egging me to drive at "hyper speed" so we wouldn't miss one second of the game—and barely made it to tip-off. From then on, between the two of us, we had something in our living room resembling the atmosphere at the Araneta Coliseum, though I must confess the superiority in levels of energy and enthusiasm at home lay entirely in favor of La Salle. Fortunately, I did not have to press my point. The Ateneo team did it for me. All I had to do was offer the spectacle before us as proof, sweeping my arm toward the TV set in wide arcs in mute argument.

Except for Villanueva's errant elbow on Adonis Sta. Maria's throat, Ateneo showed as fine and spirited a determination to beat the odds as one could get. It was a grand sight seeing Richard Gordon, Manny Pangilinan and other Blue Eagles forgetting the cares of this world and finding themselves, in lithe spirit if not in paunchy body, back in the groves of academe again. Feeling expansive myself, I forgave them their sins and found myself in solidarity with them.

To my son's credit, he never gave up on his team. His faith was boundless, hope sprang eternal in his breast as it did in Joaqui Trillo's. Trillo tried valiantly to keep a degree of objectivity in his reporting but showed his true colors, so to speak, in the dying minutes, which were green and white. I understood completely, those dying minutes must have been agonizing for him. And it did seem at one point as though La Salle would stage another comeback behind Cortez. It was a stroke of brilliance on coach Joel Banal's part to put Alvarez on him.

The unbelievable did happen: Ateneo won to wild celebration. To my son's even greater credit, he took the loss in stride, agreeing philosophically that Ateneo deserved to win—La Salle had been outplayed. And in any case, he said, La Salle had been winning too long it was getting tiresome. Maybe he found the grapes a little sour, but he has always had an indomitably cheerful disposition, which is not something he got from me, seeing the bright side of things. He is the only one I know who finds the situation of hovering in the air unable to land—which Erap made our plane do when we came home from Bohol some years ago—extremely funny. But he bowed to defeat with such graciousness I thought La Salle won the game after all.

All in all, it was one big, wonderful fight.

Opus Dei emerges from the 'shadow'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ROME—Opus Dei has been called by critics a "shadowy church within the Church." But last Sunday morning, many of its members around the world emerged from the shadows, so to speak, to join the mammoth throng, estimated at around 300,000 to 400,000, that assembled at St. Peter's Square and its environs, reaching up to the Tiber River's edge. It was one of the largest crowds ever assembled for a single event in that historic square.

* * *

The throng was there to witness the canonization of Opus Dei's founder, Josemaria Escriva. From the time the crowds began assembling, some as early as the break of day, they had been solemn and prayerful, reading from the prayer book prepared for the occasion. They cheered lustily when at 10:20 a.m. Pope John Paul II intoned in a loud voice the ancient formula of canonization: "...[W]e declare and define that Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer is a Saint and we enroll him among the Saints, decreeing that he is to be venerated in the whole Church as one of the Saints." After those words, the bells of St. Peter's rang out mightily and loud applause echoed through the square. Many people wept openly.

* * *

The official seal of approval stamped on Escriva's life of virtue, which he practiced to a "heroic degree," was the Church's way of putting to rest the controversies that his 73 years on earth and the 74-year-old "Work of God" had stirred, sadly even inside the Church. The Pope in his homily cited Escriva's challenge to universal holiness and to put Christ at the summit of all human activities and occupations. Even the gospel for that day, drawn from Luke, was very apt: Jesus told Peter, who had been fishing with other fishermen fruitlessly all night, to venture into deep water and cast their nets. Whereupon they had such a harvest that it threatened to break their nets.

* * *

Rome's autumn weather cooperated to remove the "shadows." Over the past few days it had been raining, but last Sunday the sky was so blue and cloudless and the sun shone fiercely—pretty much like the new saint, whose smiling portrait hung from the façade of St. Peter's Basilica, must have wanted it to be on his big day. That brilliant morning and the purple canopy under which Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass mixed with the purple robes of the cardinals and bishops from around the world and the rows of flowers on the stage to form a dazzling array of colors.

* * *

The crowds came from around the world, where some 84,000 members of Opus Dei are found in five continents, a reflection of the universality of the Church. They included several thousands from the Philippines, many of whom were ordinary employees who saved money for months for the trip to Rome. Many Filipinos also came from the US and Canada. The government was represented by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo. I spotted the President's daughter, Luli Arroyo, seated beside him in the section reserved for foreign dignitaries.

The Italians swelled the crowds, for after all St. Josemaria worked in Rome from 1946 up to the time of his death in June 1975. But the biggest delegation understandably came from Spain, his native land. About 9,000 Spaniards came in nine ships that docked at the port of Rome, and many more came by land and air. The Latin Americans were also amply represented, and so were the Africans in their dazzling costumes.

* * *

It was as much the big day of St. Josemaria as John Paul II's—which should not be surprising, for he had such a deep love for the Church and the Pope, a legacy he passed on to his spiritual children. And the Pope reciprocated that devotion. He arrived in his Pope Mobile, to wild applause from the crowds, and was driven straight up to the altar. But this time the vehicle did not have the protective bubble.

At the start of the ceremony, the ailing Pope looked very weak as he tried to shield his face from the intense sunlight with his shaky hands. But later, during the Mass, he seemed to gain strength, doubtless buoyed by the huge throng that plainly adored him.

* * *

After the Mass, the Pope began greeting the various delegations in their native tongues. And just when we thought the ceremony was over, he got into his vehicle and began riding around the square, greeting people, blessing them and kissing babies raised up to him. After criss-crossing the square, he went down the Via Conciliazone, the long road leading out of the square that reaches to the Tiber's edge, where the crowds had spilled out. He wanted to reach out to them, too. The vast crowds followed him over the TV monitors, seemingly tantalized by the magnetism of the Pope, who is now commonly referred to as John Paul The Great.

Some critics have said he has become so weak and debilitated that he should step down from St. Peter's throne. But last Sunday morning, he was waving to the people after over two long hours of ceremony.

* * *

As the Pope moved around, no one in the huge throng moved away. Finally, after over half an hour of socializing, the Pope disappeared into the Vatican. But the people still remained standing, as though they did not want the event to end. It was nearly 1 p.m., but by 2 p.m. they were still there. What seemed to have happened was that the people who were so much touched by the canonization of a saint realized, as John Paul II moved among the crowds, that they were watching another saint in the flesh. They came away with hearts brimming with joy and devotion to the faith.

State of education

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S a summary of the "state of Philippine education":

The ideal gross teacher-to-student ratio is one teacher for every 34 students, but actual class sizes in public schools are usually in excess of 60 students, reaching as many as 100 in some instances.

In the most recent National Elementary Achievement Test, the overall mean percentage score (MPS) of elementary students was about 49 percent, with performance in Mathematics getting the lowest MPS at 45 percent and "Hekasi" (Heyograpiya, Kalinangan at Siyensa, or Geography, Culture and Science) turning in the highest scores at 55 percent. "These figures indicate," says a primer, "that the average Filipino sixth grade student has mastered only about half of the content of his basic subjects (i.e., Math, Science, English, Filipino and Hekasi.)"

The National Secondary Achievement Test (NSAT) turned in an overall MPS of 54 percent, with Mathematics again having the lowest MPS at 49 percent and Filipino getting the highest MPS at 66 percent. Araling Panlipunan (Social Studies) had a 58 percent MPS. "These figures likewise indicate that the average fourth year high school student has mastered just about half of the content of his basic subjects (i.e., Math, Science, English, Filipino and Araling Panlipunan).

"Aside from the basic competencies, parents generally rely on schools for sustained value formation activities for their children," says the primer. "On the whole, parents expect their children to imbibe positive civic values such as ethics, respect for the law and the rights of others, modicums of good behavior and even critical thinking from their teachers at school."

This expectation holds true for all parents regardless of socio-economic standing, the report says. While private Catholic schools are strong in this area, "Value Formation as a subject is only taken up for one hour per week in public schools, although the new Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) introduced by former DepEd Secretary Raul Roco seeks to integrate value formation activities with the basic subjects."

* * *

WHAT do these figures tell us about the state of education in our country?

"The generally poor MPS scores seriously reflect on the teaching methods and practices being currently employed. Likewise Value Formation activities are inconsistently implemented, if at all.

"Combine these with such factors as a severely unbalanced teacher-student ratio, inadequate libraries, lack of teaching aids and learning technologies (e.g. overhead projectors, VCRs, laboratories) and the shortage of classrooms and the result is inevitable: graduates with substandard employment skills and a Filipino youth with a minimal appreciation for the arts, a distorted perspective of history and a superficial regard for civic duty."

Clearly, the "state of Philippine education" has to do with more than students' classroom and testing performance, or the conditions of schools and the well-being of our teachers. The quality of education we offer our children and young people has to do as well with the quality of our citizenry and the state of our political, business and social systems. It might well determine, too, the state of our families, since studies have shown that better educated and well-motivated parents, especially mothers, raise healthier children with solid personal and social values.

* * *

DECRYING the depths to which the educational system has sunk has become a one-note samba for politicians and commentators. Parents who have the means and inclination are apt to take the easy way out, absconding responsibility by enrolling their children in private schools. But the state of even private elite education in the Philippines is no longer as good as it was, say, a decade ago.

Still, whether they graduate from a public or private institution, our children will become part of the greater society, working, playing and raising their own families among other Filipinos, if they choose to stay in the country. Mario Taguiwalo, writing in Flip magazine, said watching his son walk off the stage after his graduation from college was not unlike watching him and saying nothing as he boarded the Titanic. If we want our children to make a life in this country, and contribute their own share toward its betterment without drowning in hopelessness, we better make sure they have a better country to inherit and grow old in.

This is the principle behind the "Education Revolution," launched as a new venue of advocacy by the Foundation for Worldwide People Power Inc. (FWWPP) 10 years after Edsa I.

* * *

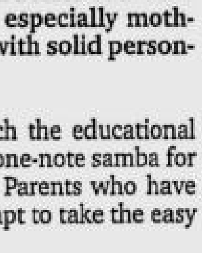
ON SATURDAY, the foundation will be holding an invitational premiere at the Premiere THX of the movie "Mga Munting Tinig," a film by Gil Portes that was well received at the recent Toronto Film Festival. Centering on the efforts of a young schoolteacher to break through the hopelessness, ennui and inertia of a poor community, the movie speaks eloquently of the state of public education especially in remote and impoverished areas, but also of the role of teachers and of education in social transformation.

Saturday's premiere will mark the launch of the "Education Revolution" which the foundation hopes to wage through two programs: Adopt-a-School, which aims to directly support the overall rehabilitation, improvement and upgrading of specific public schools; and Mentoring the Mentors, a comprehensive teacher training program that "aims to empower teachers as Agents of Change by developing their mentoring skills and opening them to the concept of Education for Social Transformation."

The state of things

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



NO, this isn't about the economy although it probably has some bearing on it. It may be related, but not entirely since the plunder exists whether the economy is bullish or bearish. Yes, it is about peace and order but it does not concern kidnapping and drugs. What this has to do with is the unabashed, out-and-out, blatant pillage of Filipino antiques, both ecclesiastical as well as other art objects.

Of course, you are all aware that the unwritten Eleventh Commandment around here is, "Thou shalt not get caught," the act itself not being a crime or a sin. But the following incidents are of very recent vintage (July and September of this year) and make you realize that whatever isn't bolted to the floor is apparently fair game for the larcenous minds of certain people. (This shouldn't surprise us anymore since we can't even build a 2-kilometer road without anomaly.)

Around a month or so ago, the word was out that an ivory Santo Niño lent by a collector to the National Museum and kept in one of the exhibit halls in a display cabinet had been stolen. Two months earlier, the three most important artifacts from an underwater excavation, the Sta. Cruz wreck, had also been filched. Whoever planned it knew very well what to get; the theft was in no way random. The three items were Ming blue and whites: an artist's oblong box with cover, a pair of ducks and a ewer in the shape of a half-moon. The fact that the theft happened between the time the National Museum director chose the three items and the following day must narrow the field of suspects. Whoever took them has to have knowledge of the market value of the items (in effect this is no *Akyat-Bahay* Gang member) and very possibly has direct contact with a dealer or a collector. (Collectors are a lot of things but they generally are not in the habit of engineering thefts. The last suspected one happened a decade or more ago in Intramuros when the guard chose specific colonial jewelry pieces that someone obviously had his eye on since nothing else was taken. They were the best of the lot. And since they haven't surfaced, the suspicion is that they are in some private collection. Actually a couple of people snicker when it's mentioned.) When a robbery is pre-arranged as the Intramuros, one obviously was, it may be impossible to recover the items since they will never be in the market—at least not until the guy drops dead.

Unfortunately, the National Museum theft is not the only recent case. San Agustin Museum has also been a victim of the avarice of certain people. The ivory head of La Consolacion plus the ivory masks of a Sagrada Familia have also gone missing. What makes this so reprehensible is that whoever bought these items had to know they were stolen. What kind of provenance could any dealer possibly give? By this time antique buyers (those who buy in the thousands and hundreds of thousands) are perfectly aware that unless a collector decides to sell, there are no longer any ivories to be had legitimately. Obviously some people don't care how they acquire their antiques.

Dealers, on the other hand, have run out of worthwhile things to sell at reasonable prices. You can see how some have ended up selling what is known in the trade as "*bagong luma*," whether ivories or furniture. Others have shifted to antiques bought in India, China or other Southeast Asian countries.

Let me repeat: It is almost impossible to find quality *santos*, images of ivory, statues of molave in baroque style, large *retablos*, large primitive style paintings on hardwood, frontals of altars, ecclesiastical silver. These are not to be had unless a collector decides to sell. So unless you don't care how you acquire your antiques, be very wary.

This is one of the reasons the poor churches of Bohol are at a risk. These are practically the only ones left in the Philippines with their original ecclesiastical art, and there are rumors that one particular dealer has been casting covetous eye on them. He is reputed to be connected politically to some warlord or other in the South, and everyone seems to be scared speechless of him, which means no one's talking.

In the meantime, the report has come in that the museum at Sta. Cruz, Bohol, has again been plundered with impunity, with the police shrugging their shoulders like Keystone Cops. Have the Bohol police recovered anything that's been stolen there even just once? The Kapampagan, who Manila dealers claim sold them stolen goods, is still carrying on business as usual. Why hasn't he been declared persona non grata in Bohol?

Whoever had the items stolen or bought them has a yen for silver. Aside from the ivory head and hands of Our Lady of Carmen and her Niño, the rest of the artifacts are a sterling silver with the exception of one 24 carat gold chalice. These are a Gospel stand heavily repoussed, 28" in height, 37.5 and in length and 31. 5" in width; one frame (altar card holder), heavily carved, with a height of 39" and width of 11"; two candelabras, whose dimensions were not given, but whose photo is available for verification in case anyone bought it in good faith and, out of the goodness of his heart, wishes to return them. (And the moon is made of green cheese.)

Is there no mercy? I once asked Jake Makasaet, an old friend, referring to corruption. He looked me straight in the eye and said, "None."

Writer

AFTER TWO months in my first job, I know am a writer. It has been the longest time I have had the feeling that's what I want to be.

I wrote my first story when I was eight years old. It was about a prince rescuing a princess from a dragon. It was a story that had often been told, I know, but I managed to make it my own.

YOUNG BLOOD

Emman Aleta

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

One day I was sitting in class, looking like I was paying attention to a lesson in multiplication. My teacher and my classmates never knew I was in a dark forest so old that the trees had turned into charcoal, frozen by the wind. The sun, moon and stars never shone through the storm clouds that wrapped the sky. The only light came from the dragon's flames that erupted from the solitary tower rising above the forest. That was where the princess was being held captive and where the prince must go to rescue her.

That was the only story I wrote during my childhood, and I lost the pad paper where I had written it during recess.

In college, I took up public administration because I wanted to help people (and I still do). Every day we talked about poverty, corruption and how to make things better. Aside from newspapers and books about taxation, economics and policy formulation, I read Anne Rice, Stephen King, Clive Barker and Neil Gaiman. I enjoyed their books because I was still the little boy who liked to be scared and kept the lights on when he slept.

In my junior year, one of my teachers gave me "Eva Luna" by Isabel Allende. Eva Luna was a writer and she lived in a country that was mired in poverty and corruption, with seemingly no hope that things would get better. She was an orphan and she was alone, but with stories she could look at life and take it apart and build it again to whatever she pleased. Sometimes the results were fantastic but always her story seemed familiar and real.

I read the book during one of the most dreary periods of my life. It was October, and it was raining every day. The roof leaked over my bed. I drank almost every night. I had no direction in life and felt I had no future.

It was around that time that I wrote my second story. I wrote more than 4,000 words at one sitting. The scribbles on my notebook were barely intelligible, but I knew every word.

Raul Barrios, on his wedding night, carried his bride Monica in his arms into their house, turned off the lights, and went up the stairs. He dropped her and she fell down the entire flight, crashing her head against each of the 10 steps. Raul had slipped on the rag he had used to wax the upper floor the day before. He too got hurt in the fall, almost breaking his back. After lying on the floor for several minutes, he realized that the house was silent and his wife was gone. She would be gone for 10 years.

That was the first paragraph. That was how I heard it in my head, but it was not the way it came out on paper. My first attempt sounded like I wasn't interested in the story I was telling. I used the same basic subject-predicate sentence over and over. I was eight again, and only beginning to learn English. It took more than a month of rearranging phrases, looking for synonyms, reading out aloud and staring at words on a computer monitor before I printed out the story.

To this day, I sometimes take out the brown envelope where I hide it and read it again. I know Raul and Monica like they are my neighbors and I have a secret videotape of their lives. Once I even felt like I was living Raul's life. I was with the girl of my dreams and I dropped her down the stairs.

When I graduated, I still had no direction and nothing to look forward to. Every day I woke up, turned on my computer and pressed buttons until I had several short stories and an unfinished novel and screenplay.

My father started telling me to look for a job. Every Sunday I bought a newspaper and scanned the classified ads. Employers were looking for nurses, engineers, call-center associates and marketing assistants. I still wanted to help people. I applied for government work but even with my degree in public administration and a high civil service exam score, I was not accepted. Months later, I settled for the job I have now.

It's not so bad. Sometimes I get to write letters, reports and presentations. It's not as much fun as writing a story but it's almost the same thing. I look at the things I know, listen to the voice in my head, write down what its says, organize, edit and make it more interesting. But usually, I just answer the phone and type.

I go home every day feeling as if my bones have turned to rubber and my lungs have withered. Standing up in the MRT, packed with hundreds of strangers, I look at the blur of gray buildings, the black smoke of buses, and the pale white of the stars.

One Saturday I woke up knowing I was a writer all along and it could not be helped. I smiled wryly at my predicament.

Among all the classified ads I have read, only a handful ask for writers. And always they specify someone with a degree in English, Mass Communications or Journalism.

I laugh and shake my head. You can teach English, you can teach Mass Communications, you can teach Journalism and even writing, but you can't teach someone to be a writer. Only a select unfortunate few actually enjoy observing the world and thinking about the words, phrases and sentences that describe precisely what they see. They still remember the lessons on infinitives, dangling participles and when to use the em dash. They can take an ordinary occurrence like falling in love and make it seem new, like no one else had the secret, except the characters, the writer and the reader. Thus, writing a report, an ad campaign or editing somebody else's work becomes an everyday task.

I envy trained writers. Most of them have discipline, whereas I only write when I feel like writing. Sometimes it is the whole day, every day, and sometimes nothing for months. Trained writers also have the courage to show their work to others and the fortitude to withstand criticism and failure. But what I envy most is their having each other's company. Their essays, stories and poems don't remain immaculately white sheets of paper; they become dog-eared, folded, crumpled from so many readings.

Writing that is unread is nothing more than a personal record of thoughts. Writers in Third World countries are the most lonesome in an already lonesome vocation. Reading is considered a chore for school or work and books are a luxury. The cost of an average novel can feed a family for a day. The lucky few mostly read foreign books because they watched "Jurassic Park" or "The Sum of All Fears." Even famous Filipino writers like Nick Joaquin and Lualhati Bautista only have a limited following in their own country.

I am a writer and my predicament is depressing and driving me mad. I write because I have to. I don't write to be read. But sometimes I give in to the temptation and force one of my friends to read my stories. I watch them. Sometimes they shake their heads, chuckle and tell me, "This is good."

Emman Aleta, 23, wants to work in the government or in media.

LETTERS

People can influence nation's future

LIKE the torrential floods washing away many populated areas of the world lately, there is no let-up in the hurricane battering our nation. Some of these tempests are the erosion of SSS and GSIS funds through thievery and mismanagement, pre-need companies going bankrupt and shattering the last hope of many of us; plunder by the billions through overpricing and fraudulent schemes like the PEA-Amari deal, the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard project, the Piatco transactions; and the election of officials with records in some foreign countries, turning our country into a haven of fugitives and a refuge of scoundrels.

So much greed and corruption amid the grinding poverty and helplessness of millions of Filipinos can trigger a national tragedy. Unfortunately, the signs of an impending disaster are being ignored by many of our countrymen. But fortunately Filipinos can still take control of the nation's destiny by supporting qualified people in government and helping educate the masses whose votes can determine our future.

—**MA. GRACIA RINOZA-PLAZO, 62 Katipunan Ave. Ext., Loyola Grand Villas, QC**

Options for ensuring clean and honest polls

THE COMMISSION on Elections can implement its modernization program despite the Supreme Court ruling voiding the contract for the voters' registration and identification system (VRIS). There are several options to ensure clean and honest elections starting 2004.

The Comelec can use existing computer systems, which will not require additional expenditure to exacerbate the ballooning budget deficit but still allow it to rapidly build up its database. With the Computerized Voters List (CVL) started in 1997, the cleanup of dead, fake, flying and multiple-registered voters can be done faster at a fraction of the P6.85 billion Photokina asked for VRIS.

The Comelec can also computerize voting, counting and canvassing through several deferred payment schemes without asking for special appropriations from Congress.

The Filipinos' potential for prosperity is undermined by the continued failure to ensure clean and honest elections, resulting in a scarcity of good leaders. Thus, the country's progress is impeded by the government's inability to interface political and economic policies as two sides of the same coin.

Clean and honest elections could be President Macapagal-Arroyo's lasting legacy. Winning a full six-year term in a clean election will enable her to establish a firmer foundation for self-sustaining development for years to come.

GMA has added luck because the country shouldn't squander the opportunity for the President to govern continuously for nine years. GMA knows the country's formidable problems and can address them better than a new president.

Meanwhile, the President has to exercise political will. By standing fast behind MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, for instance, she has the best chance of carrying Metro Manila decisively than any past president who ran for reelection.

By ensuring clean elections in 2004, the President would attract new leaders our people can rely on and who know that Fernando's brand of public service is the best politics.

—**FRANK WENCESLAO, 92 Mindanao Avenue, Q.C.**

Two Ilocos provinces

IT isn't only once that we have noticed the Ilocos provinces being referred to in your news items and other articles as "Ilocos Norte." In your front page story last Oct. 1, 2002, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson was erroneously described as the former governor of Ilocos Norte, the province north of Ilocos Sur as its name clearly tells and from where the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos hailed. The former governor of Ilocos Norte is no other than the likewise well-known Rodolfo C. Farinas.

—**JUVENCIO S. GASCON, 1 Gen. Santos St., Proj. 4, Quezon City**

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Hindsight, foresight

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"YOUR government is very good," said the man in front of me.

I was almost tempted to ask, "Are you talking to me?" What made me nearly fall off my chair was that this was the second time that day I was getting that compliment.

Whenever I attend meetings with delegates from other Southeast Asian countries, I end up confused about how our neighbors look at us. On one hand, people in the region seem to look up to Filipinos, especially those coming from universities. Many very successful Asians—government officials, professionals, academics—have fond memories of having studied or trained in the Philippines and say they've learned so much from us.

At conferences Filipinos are asked to deliver a keynote speech or to be a plenary speaker. And when there are conference workshops, Filipinos are asked to be facilitators, and to report back in behalf of the group.

It's not just a matter of our being more articulate in English. Our freewheeling democracy, for all its faults, has trained us well. We speak our minds and engage people in lively discussions. We're able to get people to think and to find solutions.

Yet increasingly, I suspect we're also being invited to many of the conferences and symposia because we're seen as the basket case of Southeast Asia. We seem to have acquired a reputation for hatching bright new ideas but not quite able to implement them, or when we do, not being able to maintain the gains. This may be paranoia but I get the feeling sometimes Southeast Asians listen to us but are thinking, "If you guys are so smart, why are you so poor?"

Let me get back now to those compliments about our government being so good. I was in Thailand the other week to meet with Southeast Asian colleagues from different universities and it was an Indonesian professor who first told me our government was "good," followed later in the day, over dinner, by an Indonesian graduate student. The Indonesians were referring to how our government, including the President, had handled the deportation crisis in Malaysia.

The Indonesians felt our government acted swiftly and with determination. They knew that our President had phoned Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed. In contrast, they say their president, Megawati Sukarnoputri, was on one of her many overseas trips and expressed little concern for the Indonesians who were being deported.

As I talked with the Indonesians, they began to praise not just our government's response to the deportations from Malaysia but our entire policy on overseas workers. In the last few years, Indonesia has begun their own campaign to send out more overseas workers, mainly to Malaysia and the Middle East, but they face many problems similar to the ones we had in the early years of our overseas deployment.

I know it's hard to believe, but our government has many more programs in place for our workers, from preparing them to leave, to supporting them while overseas, and integrating them back when they return. The Indonesians acknowledge that it's our NGOs and the workers themselves who were able to push for reforms, but credit the government as well for at least being open to working with other sectors.

Now for the bad news. As the dinner conversations unfolded, I have to say that as a Filipino, I began to feel again like the odd person out, the little sick kid of Asia that never grew up. While our government received praise for our programs for overseas workers, we're not looked on as kindly in other areas. We're still seen, for example, as American lackeys, all too eager to please our American masters and totally insensitive to regional geopolitics.

It is interesting, too, that our Southeast Asian neighbors perceive our government as having kowtowed to, in the words of one student, "Catholic fanatics." I have been asked about condoms being withdrawn from 7-11 stores, about the emergency contraceptive Postinor being pulled out by the Department of Health after it was approved, about our President insisting there is no population problem, and generally about our government family planning programs grinding to a halt. Their view is that we too have our own version of religious police calling the shots and dictating policies to a President whom they otherwise admire.

Listening to all the discussions left me with some sadness. If our neighbors have surged forward, it is not so much because of the skills we shared with them as their having the foresight to plan ahead in many areas of governance and public policy, from agriculture to family planning. This foresight includes an ability to learn from their neighbors, picking up from both strengths and weaknesses. Thus, they can praise us for our overseas workers policies and politely criticize us for our neglect of family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Our neighbors' advantage is foresight. We in the Philippines live day to day and may have to learn our lessons the hard way, 10 or 20 years down the road, in hindsight.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

ISRAELI RAID

12 dead, 110 hurt

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip—Israeli troops raiding this town with tanks and helicopters killed 12 Palestinians early Monday, including 10 who died when a missile slammed into a crowd of people. Palestinian officials said all the dead were civilians, while the Israeli Army said most were armed men killed in battle.

About 110 Palestinians were wounded in the four-hour raid, including 25 who were in critical condition, doctors said. Most suffered shrapnel wounds in the head, chest and abdomen. The dead ranged in age from 14 to 52.

Palestinian officials denounced the Israeli strike, the deadliest since July, as a massacre and called for international protection. Israeli officials said Palestinian militants were responsible for the high death toll because they took cover among civilians.

The missile was fired toward the end of the Israeli raid.

Wissam Abdeen, 29, said that as troops withdrew, residents emerged from their homes to inspect the damage and check on the fate of friends and relatives.

"We heard the sound of helicopters," said Abdeen, who was hit by shrapnel in his arm. "Two minutes later, I heard the sound of something coming from the air and I saw the flames. Then a big explosion lifted me and blew me 10 yards away."

Another resident, Abedi Ashour, 24, said he was emerging from his apartment when he heard the explosion. "People were bleeding, many of them lying on the ground. Women were screaming and blood covered the ground," he said.

Brig. Gen. Israel Ziff, the Israeli Army commander in the area, said troops met heavy resistance from Palestinian gunmen. He said that as troops withdrew, many armed men gathered in the streets.

"They fired a lot and threw grenades. There was a battle there," Ziff said. "The helicopter aimed at this armed group and hit them."

Ziff said the battle was filmed from a pilotless plane.

Israel's deputy defense minister, Weizman Shiri, said he was sorry if civilians were hurt. "But what can we do?" Shiri told Israel Army Radio. "It's war."

Later Monday, Israeli troops fired assault rifles and machine guns into Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, where hundreds of people had gathered to learn about the fate of loved ones. *AP*

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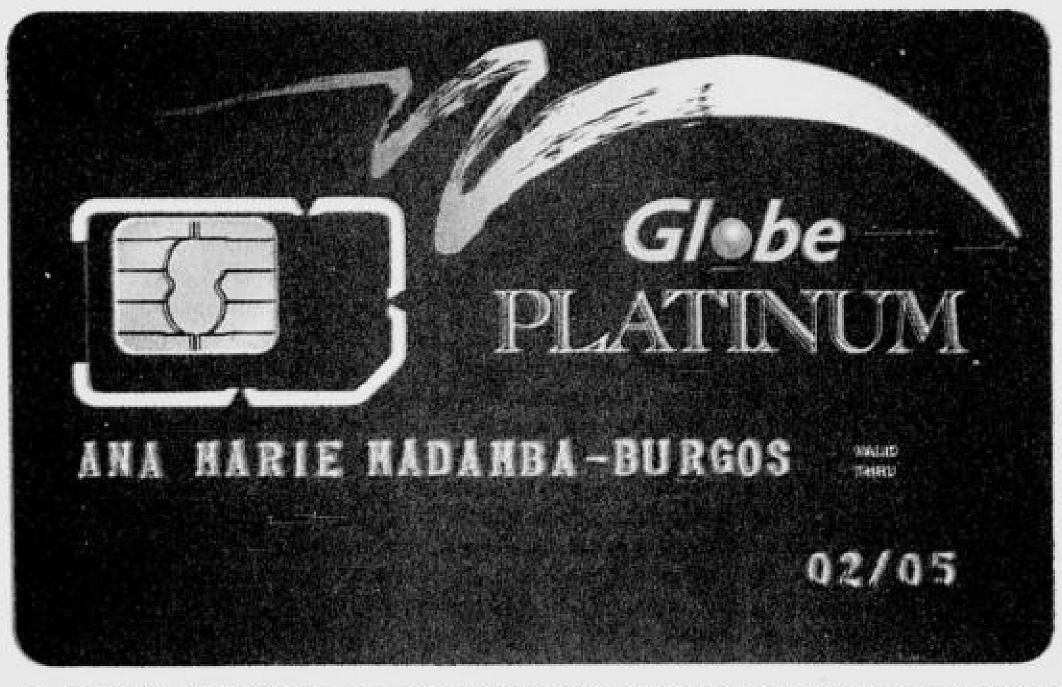

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Leftist leader rules Brazil polls

SAO PAULO, Brazil—Leftist former trade unionist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva dominated Brazil's presidential election but failed to get an absolute majority and headed for a face-off with the government's candidate, according to results out Monday.

Lula, whose fourth presidential bid had unsettled markets, garnered 47 percent of the vote in Sunday's election, three points short of an outright victory in the first round.

The one-time metal worker who turned 57 on Sunday, will battle it out with Jose Serra, 60, of the ruling Brazilian Social Democratic Party (PSDB) on Oct. 27. Serra had 24 percent of the vote after almost 90 percent of the ballots were tallied.

While a reshuffling of political alliances was certain in the coming weeks, recent opinion polls indicated Lula would win a runoff election to become the first left-wing president of Brazil, a country larger than Australia or the continental United States.

Lula, of the Workers Party (PT), has ridden a wave of voter discontent over President Fernando Henrique Cardoso's inability to defeat corruption, provide enough jobs and narrow the yawning gap between rich and poor.

But expectations of Lula leading the world's 11th largest economy had spooked markets, and the unense triggered financial turmoil that pushed Brazil to the brink of default.

The former metal worker has tried hard to ease investors' concerns by insisting he would respect international agreements, a crucial commitment at a time when the International Monetary Fund has pledged an unprecedented $30-billion package to bail out Latin America's powerhouse.

He also chose industrialist Jose Alencar of the center-right Liberal Party as his running mate.

Brazil's Central Bank president Arminio Fraga himself sought to reassure the financial community, saying Sunday market volatility would settle down as soon as a new president is announced.

"The president-elect will speak with the authority of someone who will govern the country. And with this authority he will be able to exert influence on market expectations," Fraga said.

Lula aid Marco Aurelio Garcia said the PT would now engage in new negotiations, particularly with the candidates eliminated on Sunday—Anthony Garothinho and Ciro Gomes, who got 17 and 12 percent, respectively.

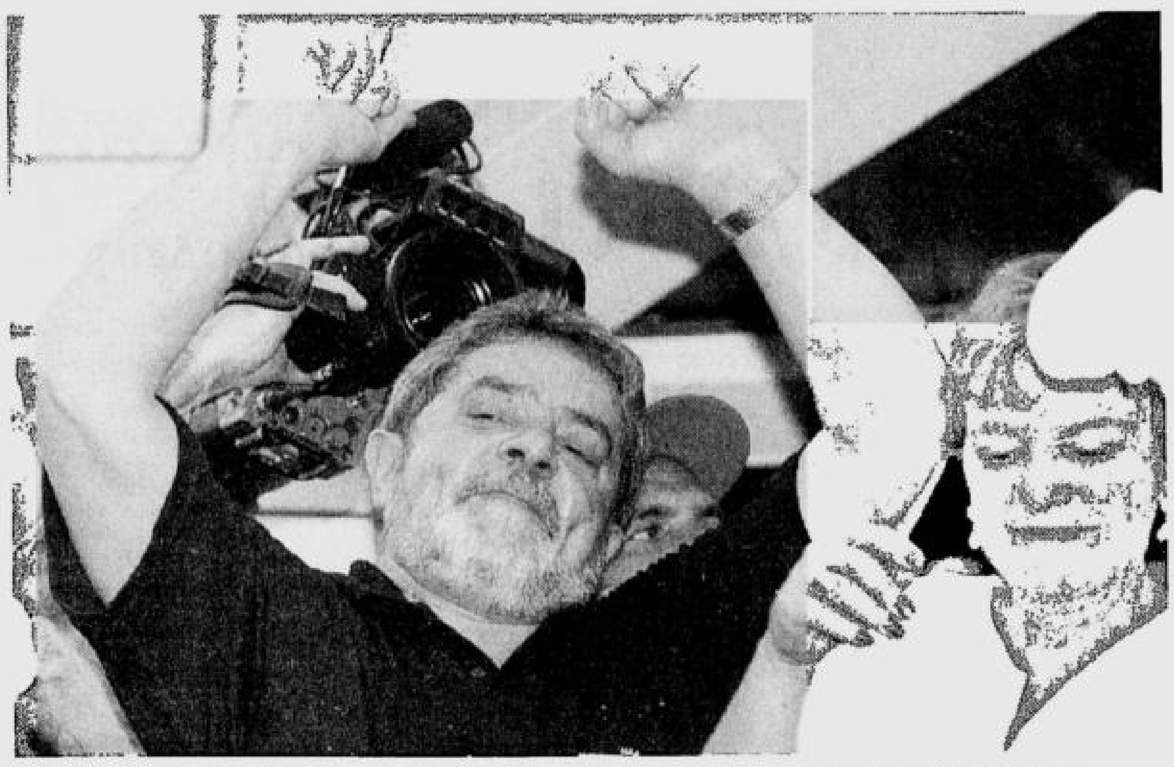
Aurelio Garcia suggested Lula already had an understanding with Gomes, though he would not elaborate.

All four candidates campaigned on platforms of economic stability and social change.

Fulfilling those promises will be a formidable challenge in a country burdened by a $204-billion foreign debt and beset by a 40-percent devaluation of its currency so far this year.

Concern over rising crime rates was also a major campaign issue. The government mobilized 48,000 soldiers and police to protect Rio de Janeiro, where authorities said they uncovered plans by violent gangs to disrupt the voting and free a jailed drug baron.

But no trouble was reported during the elections—for the president, state governors and legislators—and Rio de Janeiro's famed beaches were packed as usual. *AFP*



BRAZILIAN presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, beside his wife Marisa, waves from the balcony of his house on Oct. 6. AFP

2 British, American researchers win Nobel Prize in medicine

STOCKHOLM—An American and two British researchers won this year's Nobel Prize in medicine or physiology for discoveries concerning how genes regulate organ development and a process of cell suicide

South African-born Sydney Brenner, 75, and John E. Sulston, 60, of Britain and American H. Robert Horvitz, 55, shared the prize worth $1 million.

The laureates have identified key genes regulating organ development and programmed cell death. The discoveries have shed new light on the development of many diseases, including AIDS, neurodegenerative diseases and strokes.

The announcement opened a week of Nobel prizes that culminates Friday with the prestigious peace prize, the only one revealed in Oslo, Norway.

Brenner, a researcher at the Molecular Sciences Institute in Berkeley, California, broke new ground demonstrating that different mutations could be linked to specific genes and to specific effects on organ development, the basis for this year's prize. *AP*

Bin Laden: New tape, old song

CAIRO—The Arab satellite station al-Jazeera broadcast an audiotape Sunday in which a male voice attributed to Osama bin Laden said the "youths of God" are planning more attacks against the United States.

"By God, the youths of God are preparing for you things that would fill your hearts with terror and target your economic lifeline until you stop your oppression and aggression against Muslims," said the voice in the audiotape.

It wasn't immediately clear when the tape was made. The short message was broadcast with a picture of Bin Laden in the background.

Bin Laden said his message was addressed to the American people, whom he urged to "understand the message of the New York and Washington attacks which came in response to some of your previous crimes."

"Those who have initiated (the attacks) are the ones who brought injustice," he said.

"But those who follow the activities of the band of criminals in the White House, the Jewish agents, who are preparing for an attack on the Muslim world . . . feel that you have not understood anything from the message of the two attacks," he said. "So let America increase the pace of this conflict or decrease it, and we will respond in kind."

The reference appeared to be to the US-Iraq confrontation that many believe would lead to war. This could date the tape to recent weeks. *AP*

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Supertanker burns; investigation begins

SAN'A—The French-flagged supertanker Limburg burned in the Gulf of Aden early on Monday as Yemeni and French experts prepared to investigate an explosion that the owners fear was caused by a terror attack.

The Yemeni government has ruled out an attack similar to the October 2000 suicide assault on the US destroyer USS Cole in Aden port, saying a fire aboard the Limburg caused the blast.

But a director of the ship's owners, Euronav SA, said he thought terrorists using a boat could have been responsible for Sunday's blast as the vessel prepared to take on a pilot and dock at Mina al-Dabah, near Mukalla in Yemen.

Yemeni firefighters with foreign help were still trying to put out the raging flames and clean up a massive oil spill fast approaching Mukalla.

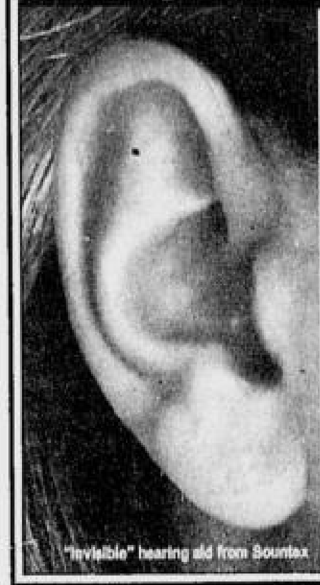
A film of the tanker on Sunday showed the bright blaze of a fire in the right side almost concealed by thick black smoke pouring away.

Oil industry sources said the 299,000-ton tanker was carrying 397,000 barrels of crude oil and had been approaching Mina al-Dabah to load more oil when a hole was blown in the Limburg's side.

All but one of the eight French and 17 Bulgarian crew members were accounted for and Yemeni officials said at least 17 crew members were in hospital. The ship's owners, Euronav SA, said the missing man was a Bulgarian.

French President Jacques Chirac announced on Sunday that French investigators would go to Yemen to join local experts in examining the tanker. A Yemeni official said the team was expected to be in the Arab state on Monday.

Euronav, a subsidiary of Belgian shipping group Compagnie Maritime Belge (CMB), said the blast occurred while the Limburg was meeting a pilot vessel to bring it into the port. *Reuters*



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Wanted in America

KUALA LUMPUR—An American terrorist suspect was seen in Malaysia on Saturday but has since gone into hiding, police said Monday. Ahmed Ibrahim Bilal, a US citizen, was spotted Saturday on the campus of the International Islamic University outside the Malaysian capital, where he has been studying since January, local media reported. But police chief Norian Mai said: "We are looking for him. We do not know where he is. We have alerted our security officials at all our entry and exit points." Bilal was named by the US authorities Friday as one of six people charged with conspiring to wage war or jihad against the United States with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network and Afghanistan's ousted rulers the Taliban. Four of the six are in custody following a joint sweep by US law enforcement agencies in Portland, Oregon, and Detroit, Michigan, Attorney General John Ashcroft said. *AFP*

Night letters

ISLAMABAD—It's a warning reminiscent of the Taliban: "Anyone who runs a music business should await our punishment. What they are doing is a sin against God and they will be punished." Since the Taliban's rule of Afghanistan ended with a US-led bombing campaign—launched exactly one year ago Monday—there have been a steady stream of pamphlets, known as "night letters," usually urging the faithful to wage a jihad or holy war against US soldiers in Afghanistan. But the latest, now circulating in eastern Afghanistan and some conservative, tribal border regions of neighboring Pakistan, is directed at owners of music cassette stores and theaters—which were banned under the Taliban and have spread rapidly in Afghanistan since the hardline Islamic regime fell. *AP*

AIDS crisis

KUALA LUMPUR—Asia could face the world's largest AIDS crisis if the region doesn't act quickly with preventive measures, such as educating millions of people who are unaware of the danger, a UN official warned Monday. So far, Asia has not been infected nearly as badly as sub-Saharan Africa, so the disease is not as visible and public awareness is not as high as in many developed Western nations, creating a climate of ignorance, said Peter Piot, head of the UN program on HIV and AIDS. People with HIV or AIDS can face discrimination in the work place in most Asian nations and shame can keep the disease underground, making it harder to control, experts say. "It's even called a social evil in Vietnam," Piot told a reporter on the sidelines of the East Asia Economic Summit, an annual gathering of business and government leaders organized by the World Economic Forum. Some 7 million Asians are infected with HIV—with the greatest number in India, but higher percentages of infected people in Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar, Piot told a news conference. *AP*

On high alert

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast—Ivory Coast rebels in the central city of Bouake were on high alert Monday, a day after they clashed with government troops on the outskirts of the city. Traversing bush and paddy fields, their rifles sweeping left and right, the rebel patrol progressed warily through Bouake, Ivory Coast's second city which has served as the insurgents' headquarters since they rose up on Sept. 19. The 50-strong patrol was mopping up after the rebels clashed Sunday with government troops on the outskirts of the city, home to a million people. Army soldiers entered Bouake after President Laurent Gbagbo's government said it was not going to sign a west African-brokered ceasefire because it was the "legitimate" authority and could not be put on a par with the insurgents. The city shook to the boom of heavy weapons and the stutter of machine-gun and rifle fire Sunday, and as night fell, tracer bullets could be seen streaking across the dusk sky. *AFP*

Ecstasy tablet

LONDON—The 2-year-old daughter of actors Jude Law and Sadie Frost swallowed part of an Ecstasy tablet at a party and was rushed to the hospital, police said Monday. Scotland Yard spokesperson Nick Jordan said a 2-year-old girl had swallowed the pill during a children's party on Saturday at a club called Soho House, a popular spot in London's West End which had been used the night before as a bar and nightclub. A police source said the girl was Iris Law, who was with her mother, Frost. The mother realized the girl had something in her mouth and managed to remove half of it before the child could swallow it, then called an ambulance, Jordan said. The toddler was kept in the hospital overnight and released Sunday morning, he said. He said tests showed the pill was Ecstasy, a drug popular at nightclubs. *AP*

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‘Jueteng’ return driven by 2004 polls

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—With Christmas barely three months away and the 2004 elections looming near, expect the illegal numbers game jueteng to stage a full comeback within this month, a top police official said.

The official, who asked not to be named, bared the scenario as jueteng resumed normal operations in Pampanga and Bulacan last week.

He took this as a sign that the illicit game would be back in no time throughout the region—the subject of a purported intense anti-illegal gambling drive since September.

More than 1,000 jueteng employees, most of them bet collectors, were arrested last month, police reports showed.

According to the source, local elected officials would tolerate the operations of jueteng in their areas to beef up their dole-out funds this Christmas season and fill up their campaign coffers for the 2004 elections.

Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, Central Luzon police chief, confirmed the return of the illicit game in the two provinces.

"They're inching their way again," he said of the operators in Pampanga and Bulacan.

Local police officials, however, insisted that jueteng in those provinces were run in a guerrilla manner.

Calderon, who three weeks ago declared the region "jueteng-free," on Monday admitted it was "more difficult" for the police to curb jueteng in those two provinces.

The areas, he explained, are controlled by many gambling financiers who encroached territories left vacant by their colleagues.

He said jueteng operations in Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Zambales, Bataan and Aurora were easier to contain because the turfs were controlled by only a very few financiers.

"They're on a wait-and-see attitude now," Calderon said of the financiers in the five provinces.

Partly unsuccessful in attaining the 100-percent jueteng-free goal for Central Luzon, Calderon said he was "not frustrated but challenged."

"Definitely, we are having difficulty but we are reassessing our strategy against jueteng to make the drive effective," he said, adding that the police in the region were not letting their guards down on the drive against illegal gambling.

Earlier, seven top police officers had been ordered relieved by Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. after they were linked to jueteng.

Newspaper reports also linked Juetengate whistle-blower Chavit Singson to the resumption of the numbers game. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Swiss sued for alleged rape of student 54 times

DUMAGUETE CITY—A senior student in a public high school has filed rape charges against a Swiss national for allegedly molesting her 54 times.

The complaint against Albert Hans Koenig was first filed at the Negros Oriental Prosecutor's Office in August. A separate complaint was later filed before the Dumaguete City Prosecutor's Office.

Both the prosecutor's offices in Dumaguete and in the province have yet to schedule the preliminary investigation of the charges.

Attached in the complaint was the affidavit of Nene, (not her real name), 18, who alleged that Koenig repeatedly raped her from January to July this year.

The sexual abuses, she added, were committed in Dumaguete and in the foreigner's house in Barangay Maayong Tubig, Dauin, about 14 kilometers south of this city.

Koenig denied the charges, saying the allegations were "baseless and malicious" designed to extort money from him.

He claimed in his counter-affidavit that he did not rape Nene because what happened to them was out of "mutual desire."

The Swiss was charged with 20 counts of rape last year but the case was dropped after the complainant, a minor, withdrew the complaint.

In her affidavit, Nene claimed that she met Koenig in October 2001 when he befriended her while she was window shopping at a department store in Dumaguete.

Then, Koenig visited her several times at her employer's house in Siaton town, some 50 km south of here, where she was then staying as a working student.

On Jan. 13, Nene said Koenig invited her to dine with him in a hotel in Dumaguete where she was allegedly raped several times. Koenig, she said, promised to marry her.

A week later, she claimed that Koenig fetched her in Siaton and insisted that she should see his house in Dauin.

She said Koenig repeated his promise to marry her and to support her education and her family. But, she added, she was allegedly raped by the foreigner in his house.

On March 27, she said she agreed to live with Koenig, believing that he would fulfill his promise of marriage. But Nene alleged that Koenig had made her into a sex slave and had become violent.

She said she tried to endure the pain of being repeatedly raped because of "deep shame" and the "loss of my dignity as a woman," and because of her promise to marry her, which would "redeem my dignity."

But Nene said that in July, she decided to escape because she could no longer bear the sexual abuse. She also realized that Koenig did not intend to fulfill his promise of marriage.

Koenig, however, denied raping Nene or promising to marry her. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

NPAs accused of shielding illegal loggers in Aurora

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—New People's Army rebels operating in Aurora are protecting illegal loggers in watersheds feeding Metro Manila's water source, a Philippine Army official said Monday.

Col. Jovenal Narcise, chief of the Army's 702nd Infantry Brigade, said NPA guerrillas in Dingalan, Aurora, have lent support to timber poachers in the forests of Barangay Umiray.

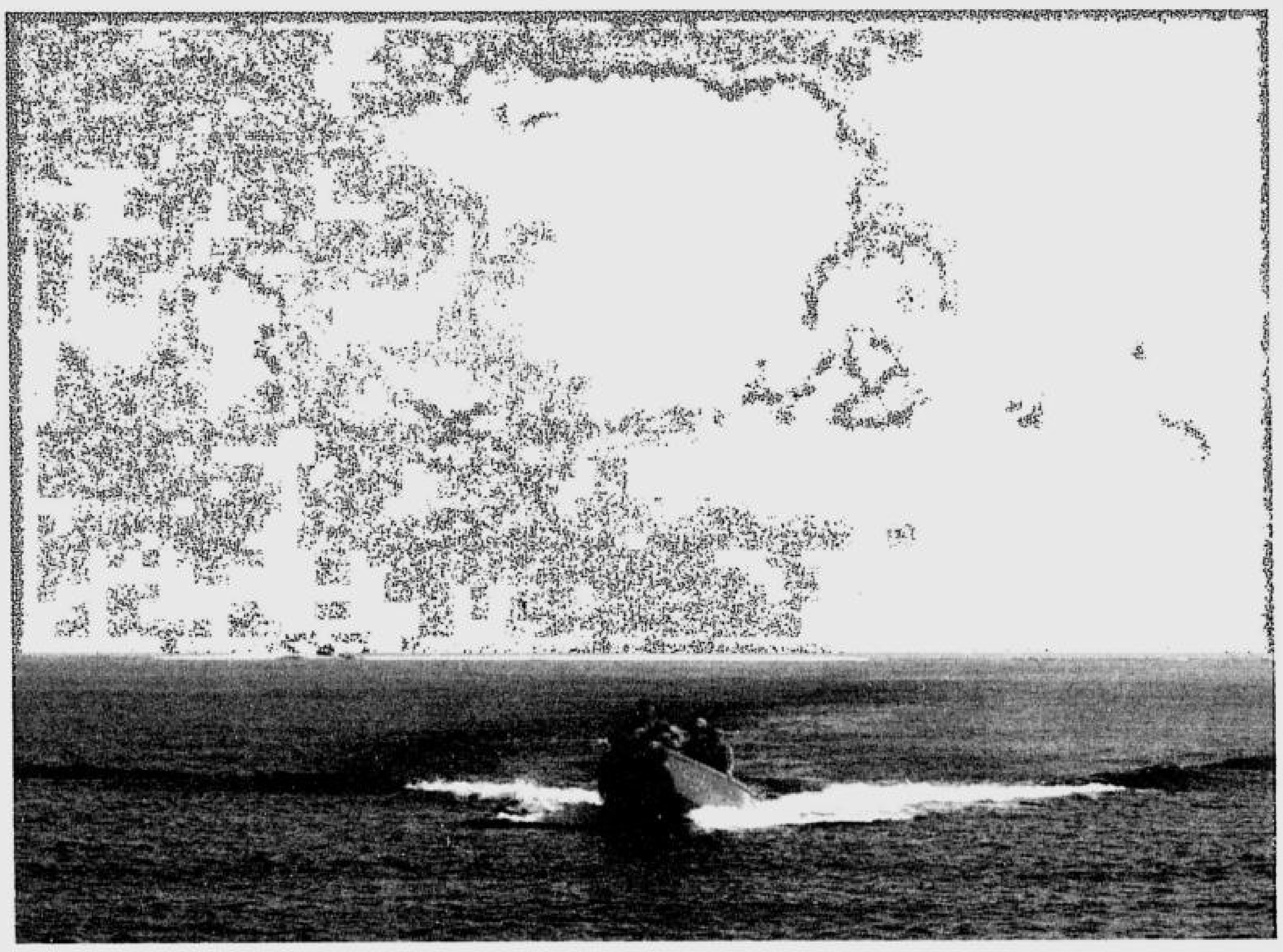
The Umiray River feeds the Angat Dam, which provides water to thousands of households in Metro Manila.

Narcise said the NPA's alleged involvement in illegal logging became apparent after the seizure of 452 pieces of logs along the Payapay and Idjang sections of the Umiray River last week.

He said Umiray residents, supposedly aided by the NPA, illegally cut the logs in the concession areas of the Green Circle, a logging firm that had met stiff opposition from residents of neighboring Aurora and Quezon.

Citing reports from troops belonging to the 71st Infantry Battalion, Narcise said the logs were ready for shipment to Quezon via the Pacific Ocean.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials in Dingalan confiscated the logs, he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



LINE OF DEFENSE DENNIS SABANGAN
A team of Philippine Navy personnel on board a boat patrol the seas off the Kalayaan Island group providing a line of defense in the Philippines' claim over the disputed territory against other claimants, including military power China.

‘Reds killing each other, Army does it for them’

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The intense rivalry between two communist parties is helping the military attain great strides in the government's anti-insurgency campaign in Central and Northern Luzon.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Army's Northern Luzon Command, said the feud between the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines (MLPP) and their respective military wings, has aided mainly in intelligence gathering.

"The information coming from both sides is helping us a lot," Garcia told the INQUIRER.

These, he added, were "indirectly" drawn from both the supporters of the CPP's New People's Army and its rival group, the MLPP's Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan (RHB).

The RHB was formed in 1997 after several top CPP regional cadres broke away or were dismissed over ideological differences, reports said.

The rift signaled the losing grip of the communists over Northern and Central Luzon that since the late 1960s had been solid bailiwicks of a Marxist revolution, military reports said.

"They want to kill each other. The (Philippine) Army is doing it for them. We are hot on their trail," Garcia said.

More than 30 rebels had died in encounters between the two warring factions since 1998.

The Army's 7th Infantry Division reported killing about 70 rebels in clashes since last year and was working for the surrender of nearly 100 others.

The differences, he said, were not over ideology but about a race to "control turfs for their extortion activities."

Garcia claimed getting "good intelligence" from residents whom he said were "pestered by the extortion activities."

He said last Sunday's slaying of five suspected communist rebels in Mexico, Pampanga, was a result of the cooperation of civilians.

Party sources on Monday denied the claims by Army and police officials that the five fatalities belonged to the RHB.

Garcia said the counter-insurgency campaign also "shaved off" rebel membership. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Albay town mayor, dads arrested for indirect contempt

TIWI, Albay—Tiwi Mayor Patria Gutierrez and seven municipal councilors here were arrested yesterday morning for "indirect contempt" of a Quezon City Regional Trial Court judge.

The councilors arrested were David Beato, Arlene Recierdo, Saturnino Clavecillas, Rey Custodio, Levirato Ulyssis Pacis, Lorenzo Carlet and Jaime Villanueva.

The warrant of arrest signed by Judge Lucas Bersamin of Regional Trial Court Branch 96 in Quezon City was served to the accused during the town council's regular session's recess around 10:30 a.m.

Vice Mayor Ruth Corral and Councilors Jesus Consulta and Orlando Leo Velasco and former Sanguniang Kabataan Federation president and ex-officio member of the Sangguniang Bayan Bernardo Costo were spared from arrest when they failed to attend Monday's regular session.

The case stemmed from a legal service contract entered into between lawyer Antonio Betito and the municipal government of Tiwi through former and deceased mayor Naomi Corral.

Betito said the municipal government failed to pay him his fees amounting to almost P21 million.

The court issued an arrest warrant three months ago for indirect contempt but Judge Bersamin didn't issue it after they promised to pay Betito's fees by appropriating the amount from the town's coffers. *Agnes Donato and Michael Jaucian and Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Woman's death doesn't kill immorality case

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The death of Cherry Augusto does not immediately spell the end of the immorality and grave misconduct complaints she filed against an assistant prosecutor whom she accused of having an affair with her husband.

Director Virginia Palanca-Santiago of the Ombudsman-Visayas said the preliminary conference on the complaint against Assistant Prosecutor Mary Ann Castro will push through on Oct. 17 even if Cherry is already dead.

She said all the concerned parties were already notified to attend the hearing. Cherry, she added, could be represented by her lawyer.

Adelino Sitoy, Castro's lawyer, said they would attend the hearing although he was confident that the complaints would be dropped.

"Who will act as the complainant," he asked.

He said he planned to ask for a formal hearing on the charges in order to confront the complainant and the witnesses.

"We have the constitutional right to confront the complainant and the witnesses against us," he said.

Cherry, 24, died on Saturday night, two days after she fell into a coma on Oct. 3 when an alleged spurned suitor shot her in the head inside her apartment.

The assailant, PO1 Clementino Dulguime Jr. of the Cebu City police, was found dead also with a bullet wound in the head on the second floor of the same apartment.

Police investigators said they believed that Dulguime shot Cherry in a fit of jealousy on Thursday afternoon after reading reports in the local newspapers that she had reconciled with her husband Zandro. On the same day, it was reported that Cherry had withdrawn the immorality charges she had filed against Castro.

Cherry filed immorality and grave misconduct complaints against Castro before the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas, claiming she caught Castro with her husband inside a motel on Aug. 11.

Castro, 32, denied the allegation. Zandro also denied that he was with Castro, saying he was with another woman named "Cynthia Fernandez."

In an interview over Cebu City-based radio station dyLA just a few hours before she was shot, Cherry said it was Castro whom she found with her husband in a motel.

Cherry said she decided to file an affidavit of desistance because she was already having financial difficulties sustaining the case.

Pimentel sets sights on 2004 polls

DUMAGUETE CITY—Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has made public Thursday his plan to run for the highest post of the land come 2004.

Pimentel said he was looking at the possibility of running for president hoping that finally Mindanao will be able to produce a president.

"No Mindanawon ever made it to the presidency, so far," Pimentel, who hails from Cagayan de Oro, said in Cebuano in a press conference at the Bethel Guest House here.

But, he added, "I want to project a candidacy based on platforms and programs, not on personality."

He also said that he wanted to espouse a federal form of government in the Philippines.

Should the plan materialize, Pimentel said he will run under his political party, the PBP-Laban, with a possibility of joining forces with other parties which shared his party's principles. *R. G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Traffic cop slain

BACOLOD CITY—A traffic policeman in Bacolod was shot dead at about 4 a.m. on Sunday inside a karaoke bar on Burgos Street in Silay City, Negros Occidental. PO1 Walter Mendoza suffered three gunshot wounds in the back. Police investigations showed that Mendoza and a companion had an altercation with two unidentified suspects inside the bar. PO1 Peter Jup Barnisa, desk officer of the Silay police, said one of the suspects pulled out a .45-cal. pistol and shot Mendoza before escaping on board a red Mitsubishi Canter vehicle with plate number GFV-945. Several hours later, Silay policemen recovered the getaway vehicle in Barangay Manta-angan, in E.B. Magalona town, Negros Occidental.
Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

2 NBI agents suspended

CEBU CITY—The Office of the Visayas Ombudsman suspended for one month two National Bureau of Investigation agents here for failing to heed summons to appear in the hearings called by the anti-graft body. Ordered suspended by Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Primo Miro were Arnel Pura and Vicente Minguez. The suspension order is final and executory and therefore no appeal can be made, Miro said. Minguez and Pura were found guilty of simple misconduct after they failed to appear in the hearings for the graft case that the NBI agents themselves filed against two Cebu City government employees. Pura said he failed to appear in the hearings due to conflict of schedules. He said he would ask the Visayas Ombudsman to reconsider its decision.
Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau

Slaying suspect held

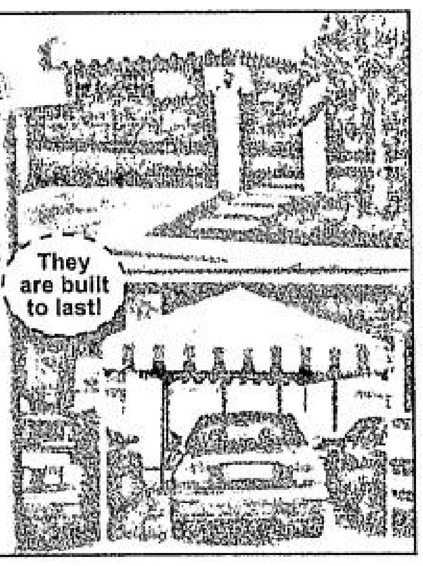
TAGBILARAN CITY—Police arrested on Oct. 2 the suspect in the killing of three people and the wounding of four others in Mahayag Sur, Catigbian town, Bohol. Policemen and barangay officials collared Jeremias Dayon, 32, a native of Negros Oriental after he was seen in a forested area, carrying a sharp, pointed *bolo*. Dayon was subject of an arrest warrant issued by Judge Salud Migrino of the 26th Municipal Circuit Trial Court for three murder cases filed against him. Dayon allegedly went into a stabbing spree early evening on Sept. 5 at the residence of his father-in-law after hearing a joke he thought was a plot to harm him. Killed on the spot were Bienvenida Llorente, Dayon's sister-in-law, and George Castardo. Francisca Patac died at the hospital the next day. Wounded were Antonette Llorente, Rosita Umapas, Analyn Llorente, Olimpio Llorente, and Avelino Llorente. *Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Hailstorm strikes

DAVAO CITY—Disaster officials in Southern Mindanao said that a hailstorm, which is a rare occurrence in the Philippines, hit Sto. Tomas town in Davao del Norte on Sunday evening. At least P1.6 million worth of property were destroyed by the hailstorm. Carmelito Lupo, director of the Office of Civil Defense here, said the town was also plunged into darkness until Wednesday after at least 18 electrical posts were toppled by gushing winds. Lupo said the disturbance started at 4:30 p.m. and lasted until 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 30. Around 80 houses were destroyed when 70 kph winds, packed with ice, descended on the town and displaced at least 96 families. The incident has prompted officials to request that the town be placed under state of calamity. Vice Mayor Daniel Lu said the municipal council was set to pass a resolution about the need to declare Sto. Tomas an area of calamity. He said this was to ensure that the flow of assistance would go unhampered.
Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Policeman charged

BUTUAN CITY—A police officer tagged as mastermind in the summary execution of at least two suspected burglars here on Sept. 15 has been criminally and administratively charged. Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, Caraga police director, said he also placed PO3 Joel Cabanes under a 90-day preventive suspension after the victims' relatives filed double murder charges against him before the prosecutor's office. *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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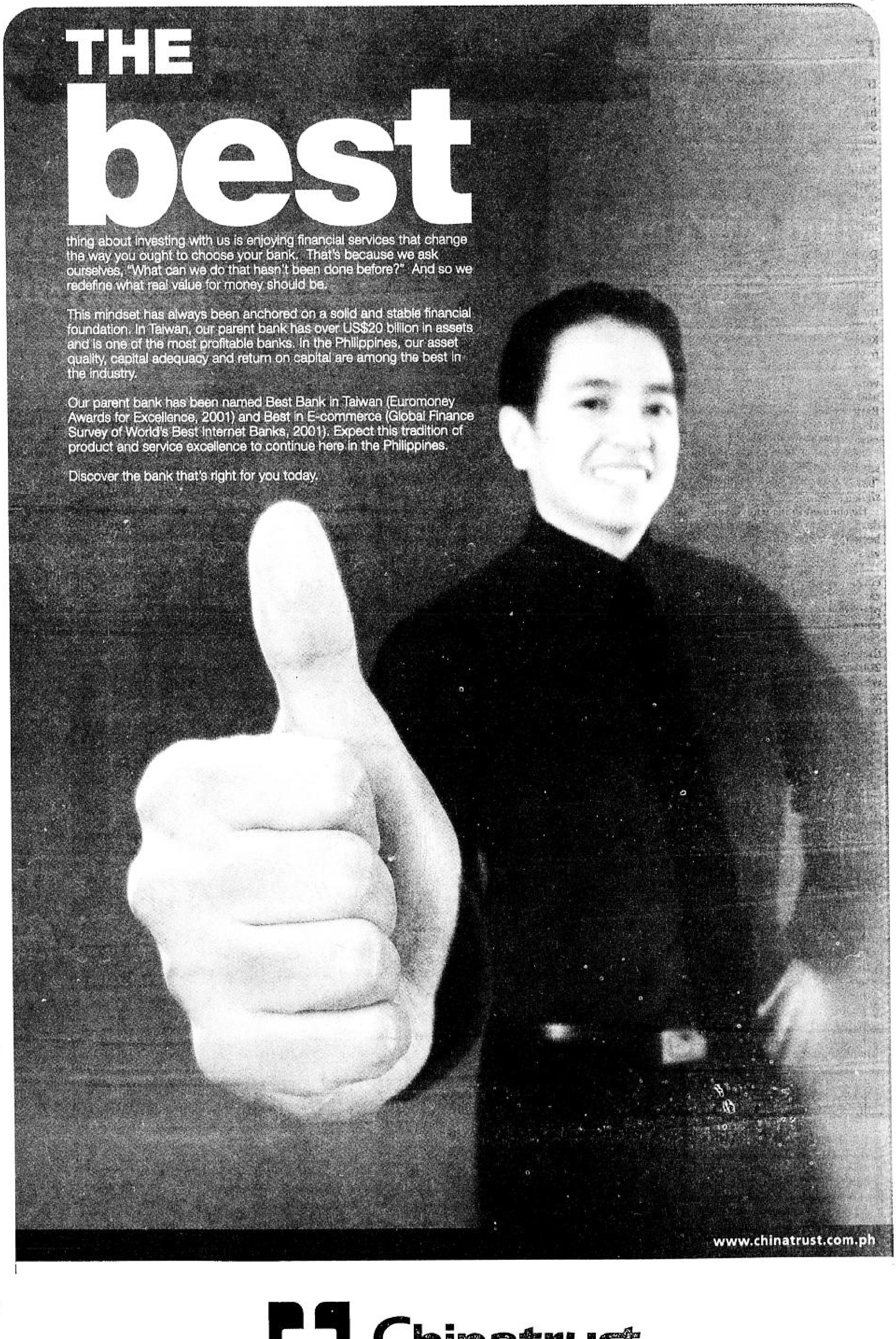

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Django, Nikoy pocket second gold for RP

From page A1

Philippines its first gold in the men's doubles on Friday night, allowing the Philippines to surpass its one-gold performance in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad. That gold also came from 9-ball tandem of Gandy Valle and Romeo Villanueva.

"We're moving close to our target," said Celso L. Dayrit, chair of the Philippine Olympic Committee. The Philippines is only one gold shy of its showing in the 1994 Hiroshima Games.

With the two golds, three silvers and six bronzes, the Philippines jumped to 13th overall behind powerhouse China in the 44-nation meet. The medal haul also pushed the Philippines past Vietnam (2-2-3) and Indonesia (1-5-5).

For daughter

Bustamante, standard bearer of the Philippine delegation during the opening ceremony, said he was dedicating his victory to his 7-month-old daughter who died while he was playing at the World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, in August. He lost in the finals to American Earl Strickland.

"The gold was worth the sacrifice," said Bustamante, whose wife and 3-year-old son watched him make history.

So he could represent the country in the Asian Games, Bustamante had to skip the lucrative US Open that offered a top prize of $50,000.

Today, however, Bustamante will be flying straight to Baltimore, Maryland, to compete in a new billiards event, the 7-ball sudden death, which offers a top prize of $25,000. After Baltimore, Bustamante and Reyes will proceed to England to play in the World Pool Masters on Oct. 18-20.

Silver in bowling

The celebration hardly died down when news broke that the Philippine bowling team produced a silver in the five-person event. It was a totally unexpected finish for Liza Clutario, Liza del Rosario, Ces Yap, Jojo Canare and Irene Benitez. They were down by 100 pins behind Chinese Taipei going into the homestretch.

But big games by Clutario and Yap propelled the team past the Chinese and snatched the silver with a slim 9-pin margin over Taipei. South Korea won the gold. Clutario scored 1300, Yap 1294, Del Rosario 1274, Benitez 1157 and Canare 1070.

Lightweight Anthony Igusquiza advanced to a battle for the boxing bronze medal but Violito Payla lost to a Pakistani.

"Clearly, we were cheated," said Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines. "Payla was connecting more than his opponent. Payla was the aggressor and was landing the solid punches. We lost a potential gold medalist today."

Payla was the strongest contender for the gold. He came here with three golds and one silver won from three international stints last year and one this year.

Judges are known to favor Pakistani boxers mainly because the president of the World Boxing Federation is a Pakistani, Anwar Chowdry.

"He's been there so long he has become almost untouchable," said Liberato Reyna Jr., the team manager of the eight boxers sent here to avenge the shutout of the 1998 Asiad.

Other setbacks

There were setbacks, too, in other fronts and the bitterest came in athletics, when Lerma Bulauitan missed the long jump bronze by a tiebreak.

"She jumped twice and her opponent had only one jump," rued Go Teng Kok, the president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association. "We simply didn't have the breaks today."

Bulauitan's bronze would have been the country's first medal in athletics after the gold medal of sprints queen Lydia de Vega in the 1986 Seoul Asiad.

Eduardo Buenavista finished only eighth in the 10,000-m run but consoled himself by becoming the first Filipino to hit below 30 minutes with his time of 29 minutes 32.06 seconds.

Buenavista also bettered his personal best of 30:19 and shattered the Philippine record of 30:34 set by his coach, Mario Castro, on May 27, 1984.

"Indeed, the opposition is that tough," said Buenavista in Filipino. "I gave everything I had but still, I couldn't win a medal."

But if it's any consolation once more, Buenavista was the only Southeast Asian who made the grade to this year's Asian Games.

More failures

The highly touted five-man bowling team of four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno, Engelberto Rivera, Chester King, Leonardo "Botchok" Rey and RJ Bautista turned in a disappointing performance, slipping from first to eight with a six-game total of 6070.

They were pulled down by five low games—170 by Rivera, 166 by King, 146 and 177 by Rey and 177 by Nepomuceno. They finished 319 pins away from gold medalist Japan, which tallied 6389.

Korea took the silver at 6237 while Chinese-Taipei and United Arab Emirates shared the bronze at 6138.

Baseball also got a big blackeye when it was routed by China, 13-0. With the setback, the Filipinos, who had boasted they're the best in Southeast Asia, bowed out of the five-team tournament.

The Filipinos were previously beaten 12-0 by Japan, 5-0 by Korea and 4-2 by Chinese-Taipei.

After eight races in the Optimist class of sailing, Joseph Jayson Villena ranked only eighth with 44 points. But two other sailors, Ridgely Balladares and Rommel Chavez, checked in fifth after seven races in the 470 class with 28 points.

"They still have a chance for the medal," sailing official Claudio Altura said.

In women's archery, Sydney Olympian Jennifer Chan emerged as the best Filipino performer with 1302 points after the 70-, 60- 50- and 30-meter distance events.

Teenager Rachelle Anne Cabral, a rookie, came in 22nd, but veterans Joann Chan-Tabanag and Purita Joy Marino occupied the 45th and 46th slots.

Free style wrestler Jimmy Angana fell to Mongolia's Purevbaatar by superiority in the 60-kilogram preliminary, but bounced back to topple Bangladesh's Mohamed Anisur Raman in the second preliminary round.

Two other Filipino matmen—Marciano Basas and Marcus Girard Valda—lost all their matches.

Basas was beaten by Kazakhstan's Genady Laliyev in the first round and Tajikistan's Abdusalomov Yousup in the second round of the 74-kilogram class, while Valda lost to Uzbekistan's Ibragimov Magomed and Afghanistan's Mancher Iqbal Ahmad in the second round of the 96-kilogram class.

PHILIPPINES
9Ball Pool
Doubles

VICTORIOUS duo (top) Francisco Bustamante and Antonio Lining celebrate after the 9-ball billiards' double final match against South Korea's Jeong Young-hwa (right) and Kim Won-suk at the 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

REUTERS/JESS YUSON

Zambo . . .

From page A1

ed were members of the Abu Sayyaf and said he did not know of any reason for them to be picked up.

Four residents of Malagutay, the village where the bar was located, were taken in for questioning as witnesses a day after the bombing.

On Saturday, two more persons were invited for questioning. Two of them, police said, gave "vital" information on the suspects' identities.

"We are on intelligence buildup and we are optimistic that these bombers are just roaming . . . the city," Bola-bola said.

Police said they have dropped their theory that the bombing was a suicide attack.

Military investigators initially reported that one of those killed in the attack, Bernard Limba, was the bomber.

Information from witnesses had disputed the report, according to police sources.

Police are now saying the bomb attack was carried out by motorcycle-riding suspects.

The AFP quoted Chief Insp. Antonio Clarito, city police spokesperson, as saying police had cleared Limba and established that he was just a passerby.

Clarito said the bomber was still alive and at large. He said police released a sketch of the man suspected to be behind the bombing.

One of those killed in the attack was Sgt. Mark Jackson of the US Green Berets. Jackson was part of a small group of American soldiers who stayed behind in Mindanao to carry out infrastructure projects after hundreds of US soldiers trained and assisted Filipino counterparts on anti-terrorist tactics.

The death of the American soldier prompted Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and investigators from the US Army and Navy to take part in the investigation.

Philippine and US officials had pinned responsibility for the bombing on the Abu Sayyaf, a terror group with links to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden and responsible for kidnappings in parts of Mindanao.

US military-trained Philippine soldiers launched an operation that led to the death of American hostage Martin Burnham and the rescue of his wife Gracia and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap from Abu Sayyaf captivity.

The terrorists are still holding three Indonesian ship crewmen and four members of the Christian group Jehovah's Witnesses. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with a report from AFP*

Military asset charged with Sulu kidnapping

From page A1

his cameraman," she said.

Lyn said she came to realize that despite all the help she had given to the military, "if they no longer have any use for you, they will just throw you away like garbage."

Baanan said the police were still looking for the three other people allegedly involved in the abduction. "We have their identities, but I don't want to give details because I was instructed not to divulge their names prior to the gathering of witnesses and evidence," he said.

No witnesses

He said the police still had no witnesses to pin down the three suspected kidnappers, who are reportedly MNLF integrees of the Philippine Army. "We are still looking for witnesses against the three," he said.

Lyn said kidnapping charges should also be filed against Musngi.

Jikiri said the activities of three other suspects were being closely monitored by his men. One of them, he said, had already reported to the Jolo Internal Defense Force under Lt. Abe Sirajan.

Jikiri said he was sure that those behind the abduction included a former military asset. Others involved are connected with the 104th Brigade.

"I am not lying. I have never been wrong in what I say," he said. He, however, refused to name the suspects.

Jikiri told the Inquirer that "sweet persuasion coupled with threats" was his "magic formula" in resolving the problem.

He said the kidnappers initially demanded P7 million, which they later reduced to P3 million.

The governor said he and GMA 7 did not give in to the kidnappers' demand. Instead, members of the Sulu Provincial Crisis Management Committee decided to deal with the kidnappers by "overwhelming their camp with our troops," he said.

Jikiri also held dialogues with local leaders.

"We slept in the area for two days and two nights. We showed them that we are determined to get the captives without any condition. The police personnel were with me until I decided to let them establish a position. That's when they decided to give in," the governor said.

Southern Command chief Lt. General Ernesto Carolina said the Inquirer's successive stories on the abduction had "prejudged their (soldiers') guilt."

"Carlo had a deal with Hadja, not with the escorts. But your news unjustly told the public that the soldiers masterminded the kidnapping and you have prejudged their guilt," Carolina said through text messages.

He noted that Lorenzo said in his statement that uniformed men, who brought him to the mountain, were escorts of Hadja.

"He said they announced holdup *ito*, but he never said soldiers did it," Carolina said.

7 Crame guards face charges of negligence

From page A1

fore the Quezon City prosecutor's office were Insp. Rolando Cana, SPO4 Pedro Doctolero, SPO3 Ruperto Galliguez and Jesus Acuna, SPO2 Benjamin Agbulos, SPO1 Nelson Alcantara and PO3 Armando Ibasco.

"Our investigation has established that had they not been negligent, Henry Tan would not have escaped," PDEA Director General Anselmo Avenido Jr. said, citing the results of the agency's inquiry into the Sept. 29 escape.

Tan, who was arrested and charged with trafficking 350 kilos of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) in Zambales in November, was able to bolt the PDEA detention center in Camp Crame by sawing off the iron grills of his cell.

The Senate yesterday conducted a hearing on the matter. Shortly afterward, Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the committee on public order and illegal drugs, called on Avenido to issue a "shoot to kill" order on the fugitive.

"Tan will do everything within his means to escape because the evidence is very strong against him, making him a candidate for the death penalty," Barbers said.

But Justice Secretary Hernando Perez urged caution.

Perez said that under the rules of engagement, the members of the arresting team should not use force unless there was a threat to their lives.

"You cannot just kill (Tan) if you see him because that would be a violation of the law," Perez added.

Avenido admitted to reporters that the PDEA Internal Affairs Service (IAS) had failed to establish that bribery was involved.

"That never came out in our investigation," he said, adding that the IAS would continue its investigation even after the charges had been filed.

The PDEA also filed administrative charges of serious neglect of duty against Superintendents Donatilo Balabala and Christopher Tambungan, director and assistant director of the agency's Operational Support Service, which is in charge of the detention center.

Avenido said the charges were filed before the Office of the Chief of the Philippine National Police because the PDEA had no "disciplinary jurisdiction" over its personnel.

He said the relief of the concerned personnel had also been recommended.

The PDEA has no idea of Tan's whereabouts.

"No news on where he is," Avenido said. "Our men, in coordination with PNP personnel, are tracking him down."

On the request of the PDEA, the Bureau of Immigration has put Tan on its hold-departure list.

Sen. Noli de Castro, who, along with Barbers, earlier inspected Tan's detention cell, said those responsible for his escape should be "sanctioned administratively and criminally charged."

"We should send the strong signal to the (PNP) so that things like this would not go unpunished," he said. "Otherwise, we will never be able to improve the image of our police."

After hearing the testimony of PDEA officers, De Castro said he was "disappointed with the admitted malfeasance and procedural lapses committed by the jail guards and their superiors."

"The list of those who should be administratively charged will most likely become longer as the Senate hearing continues," he said.

De Castro noted that while some of the PDEA officers implicated had been in the service for many years, "accountability should prevail."

"It is disheartening to have to charge them because they have served the people for so long," he said. "But precisely this should have made them take care of their profession and their names." *With reports from Rocky Nazareno and Michael Lim Ubac*

Ople: Tuna war may spawn terror

From page A1

"The tuna industry in Mindanao provides 100,00 jobs," Ople told the World Economic Forum's East Asia Economic Summit here.

"If you deny the market access to US and Europe, this will aggravate the situation on terrorism in that part of the country because it will wipe out 100,000 well-paid jobs. This is one identifiable link between economic cooperation and the fight against terrorism."

The United States has included in its list of foreign "terrorist" organizations the Abu Sayyaf bandit group that is operating in Mindanao as well the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

The Abu Sayyaf is on the run from a massive military campaign in Mindanao after joint US-Philippine operations against it early this year. Philippine and US authorities have said the Abu Sayyaf was at one time loosely linked to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Ople warned the Abu Sayyaf threat could "reappear in new forms" but said the CPP-NPA, which has been waging a 33-year Maoist insurgency against Manila, was "by far the greater threat to our security."

"The NPA is known to have entered into tactical alliances with Muslim separatists in Mindanao. Indeed some of their cadres have been known to link up with other radical groups that have fomented street violence in Indonesia," he said.

"We are appealing to all other governments to declare the CPP-NPA as a foreign terrorist organization and to cut off their financial lifelines wherever these may exist." *AFP*

Arroyo finds cost of PEA road project 'too much'

By Cynthia D. Balana

TOO excessive.

That's how Sen. Joker Arroyo, blue ribbon committee chair, described the P26 million spent for each kilometer of every lane of the 2.3-km portion of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard (PDMB) that the Jesusito D. Legaspi Construction had built.

"The members of the committee are concerned. We had never heard of a lane of asphalt road costing P26 million per kilometer in our budget deliberations. When you have P26 million per kilometer, that's too much," Arroyo said at the continuation of the Senate hearing on the controversial road project in the Manila Bay reclamation area.

He said he found the cost given by the Public Estates Authority (PEA) excessive because the PDMB was built on flat land.

Whistle-blower and PEA board member Sulficio Tagud Jr. earlier claimed that the eight-lane asphalt road, named after the father of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was overpriced by P600 million. His exposé has led the Senate, House of representatives and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to investigate the project.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay urged the blue ribbon committee and the public works and highways committee to tap the services of two to three engineering firms in coming up with an independent assessment of the cost of the PEA project.

Magsaysay said the Senate could also enlist the help of the University of the Philippines, the Philippine Constructors Association or a foreign engineering firm.

Sen. Robert Jaworski said he would work for the amendment of certain laws that allowed the PEA and other government agencies to charge additional work costs to the original contract if the value was not more than 100 percent of the escalated contract price.

Jaworski pointed out that the seaside road and inland channel bridge were "additional works" and should have been treated as separate contracts.

At the hearing, the head of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) said the P1-billion loan it extended to the PEA for the construction of the PDMB was a good business deal.

Winston Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, said the GSIS was expected to earn a profit of P700 million from the deal. He added that the loan was fully secured by collateral in the form of land.

Garcia said there was no basis for the opposition senators' allegation that the GSIS would lose from the transaction.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said the GSIS was banned from extending loans to someone who use land as collateral.

Sen. Edgardo Angara earlier said the GSIS approved the loan for the road project despite the fact that it has no income-generating component. He said the GSIS was only mandated to invest in income-generating projects.

Garcia said it was a "straightforward transaction" secured by a collateral of 11.21 hectares of land at the Manila reclaimed area with an appraised value of P4 billion, or four times the value of the loan.

"We expect the land value to rise once the proposed developments in the area are in place, including SM's Mall of Asia. Thus we can say that GSIS is more than fully protected in this loan," Garcia said.

40,000 Pinoys

From page A1

illegal migrants.

Ms Macapagal said the moratorium had allowed Philippine authorities to put in place a system wherein the illegal migrants were properly documented.

"Because there is an ongoing moratorium, there are no new arrests. So what we're doing now is to focus on documentation of our Filipino brothers who want to return to Sabah and whose return is being sought by their employers in Sabah," she said.

"Perhaps, some 40,000 of them can now return to Sabah," the President said in remarks during ceremonies at Malacañang Palace for relief assistance to the deportees.

Ms Macapagal also issued a memorandum creating a special task force to protect the rights of Filipino migrants in Sabah.

Upon the recommendation of the task force chief, Nur Jaafar, she said she would ask the Philippine Navy to deploy a ship to be docked off the coast of Sabah to serve as a "processing center" for illegal Filipino migrants to secure official travel documents.

This would "facilitate our Filipino brothers to return to Sabah at the soonest possible time," Ms Macapagal said. *AFP*

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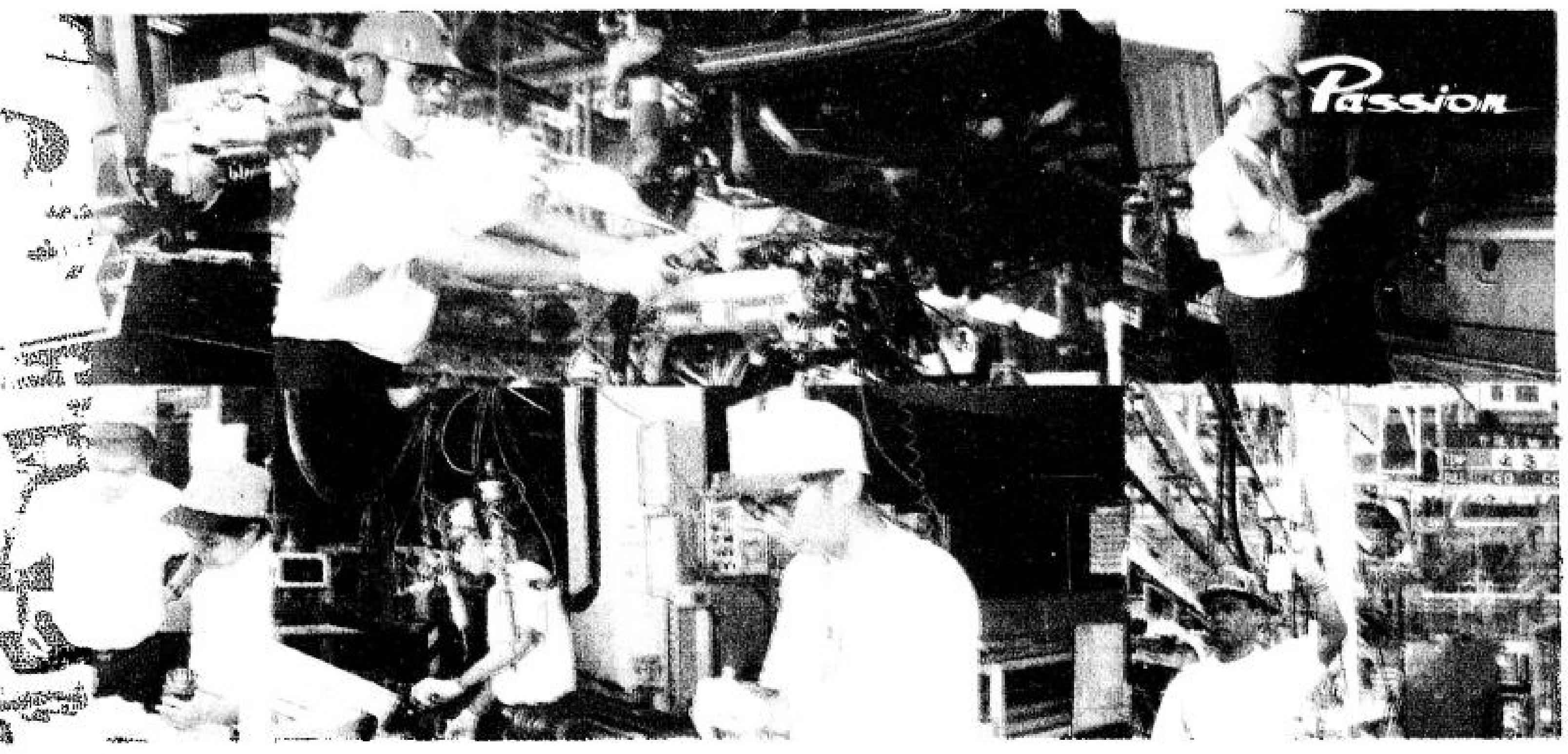


Toyota and the Filipinos: Hand in hand on the road to progress

TOYOTA is not just a vehicle. It is a name that is synonymous to growth and development. A household name the world over, Toyota produces some six million vehicles in 24 countries including the Philippines. Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMPC), set up in 1988, has stood by the Philippines over the past 14 years and has become a partner in the country's ride to progress.

Commitment

Throughout the years, Toyota has not just been a witness to what the country went through, it has remained unwavering in its commitment to the country's development.

Toyota has remained steadfast to the Philippines and continues to foster growth in the country with investments reaching P14.3 billion in plant facilities and equipment since 1990. This is an average investment of over P1 billion annually for the past 12 years.

The Toyota Group of Companies in the Philippines directly and indirectly creates jobs for thousands of Filipinos and contributes to exports of about $284 million annually or some P14.8 billion.

Three major companies – Toyota Motor Corporation, Metrobank and Mitsui & Co. Ltd, founded TMPC.

> *In every community where the company operates, Toyota strives to be a responsible corporate citizen. Close relationships with people and organizations in the local community are essential contributors to mutual prosperity.*

Economic Contributions

Realizing the potential of the country and the strength of its workers, Toyota set up another firm, the Toyota Autoparts Philippines Inc., in 1992, to manufacture auto transmissions for export.

Beyond employment, the value of TAP lies also in its contributions to the Philippine economy through much needed foreign exchange earnings. Toyota recognizes the English-speaking capability of the Filipino worker, which is vital as the world market becomes smaller and smaller. Globalization has compelled companies to equip themselves to be able to compete in the world market and Toyota sees the strategic position of the Philippines for exports in the region.

The firm believes in the Filipino workforce, its abilities and sense of commitment.

Spirit of Challenge

As Toyota rides through the globalized world arena, it meets the challenges posed by an increasing business environment that has no boundaries – with passion.

Toyota applies the same passion in meeting the demands and challenges of the ASEAN region, and the Philippines' strategic location in the region makes it an important part of Toyota's global network.

In every market, Toyota responds directly to the needs of the people and the Philippines is no exception. Its Asian Utility Vehicle, the Tamaraw, is a vehicle that has helped many small businesses and Filipino families tremendously. It has the number one share of the market for a total of ten years.

In every community where the company operates, Toyota strives to be a responsible corporate citizen; close relationships with people and organizations in the local community are essential contributors to mutual prosperity. Around the world. Toyota participates enthusiastically in community activities ranging from the sponsorship of educational and cultural programs to international exchange and research.

ISO 14001 Certification

ISO 14001

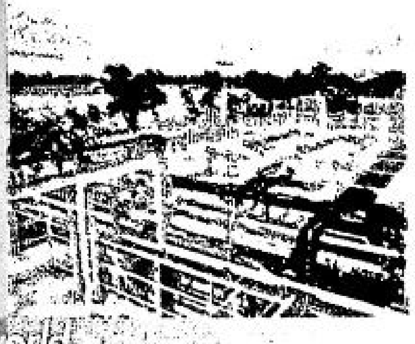
AJA

UKAS
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corporation is the first manufacturer in the Philippines to receive an ISO 14001 certification together with Toyota Autoparts [illegible] to achieve ISO 1400[illegible] control by raising the level of production [illegible] global standards. Highly [illegible] the certification [illegible] given only to those who meet the highest [illegible] environment quality.

Environment Care

BEYOND its commitment to growth and development in the Philippines, Toyota ensures that it contributes to environment care. It has an environmentally advanced plant in Santa Rosa, Laguna, which has a wastewater aeration tank that collects all liquid waste from the plant. Dishwater, toilet water, oils and coolants are collected and processed until the water is so clean, fish can live in it.



Exporting to ASEAN and the rest of the world

Toyota Autoparts Philippines Inc.

TAP started operating in September 1992, producing transmissions and constant velocity joints (CVJ). These units can only be produced by highly skilled technicians. The bulk or some 90 percent of the transmissions are exported and used in Toyota vehicles worldwide. TAP generates foreign exchange earnings through exports to ASEAN countries, India, Portugal and even South Africa. To date, it has produced some 1.5 million auto transmissions. This year, TAP celebrates its 10th anniversary.

Preparing the world for Greener Cars

As Toyota meets the challenges of every nation it is in, it pays just as close attention to the environment and its care. The increasing pollution of the world is a concern Toyota addresses when manufacturing its vehicles. It started with a hybrid of vehicles that is very kind to the environment.

What is a greener car?

Toyota posed this question in 1997, the year it introduced the world's first mass-produced gasoline-electric hybrid car, the Prius. Since then, Toyota has added two more hybrid vehicles to its family. The 100,000th Prius has been delivered. Toyota engineers have become increasingly convinced of the versatility of hybrid technology and now believe it will be around as long as a car continues to have wheels.

Toyota introduced the Prius with hopes that it would be more than a forerunner of cars to come --- that it would also herald an age of new technological diversity and a "de-maturing" of the entire auto industry.

The basic car concept hasn't changed much since the early 20th century. Now "Evolution with Diversity" has become the Toyota mantra, driven by the challenge of environmental concerns. Given projected population increases and their impact on the global environment, participation in a growth

Making vehicles affordable

Toyota Financial Services Phils. Corp.

TOYOTA Financial Services is the newest company formed by Toyota to serve its customers better. Toyota Financial Services provides loan packages exclusively to buyers of Toyota vehicles.

Providing such a service is a worldwide strategy of Toyota that has been successful in countries like Thailand and Australia.

The Financial Service aims to make Toyota vehicles more affordable to Filipinos.

Corporate responsibility

Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation, Inc.

LESS than two years after it started operations in the Philippines, Toyota set up a foundation, the Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation, Inc. (TMPF), as its social and humanitarian arm.

Long before corporate responsibility became the by-word among local business, Toyota was already practicing good corporate citizenship.

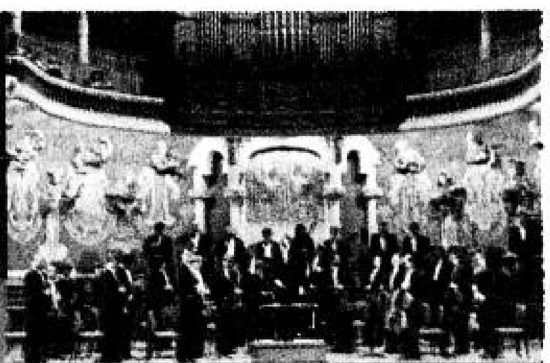
It had always been Toyota's benevolent philosophy to share the company's blessings with society. The country's dream towards development is being realized via the Foundation, which also drew inspiration from the premier mind and spirit behind the Toyota Foundation in Japan.

The list of TMPF's contributions to local communities is long:

- Scholarship grants
- Engine equipment donation
- Public school building donations
- Medical and health services
- Professorial chair
- Library donations
- Specialized automotive training courses
- Community services

Culture and the arts

TOYOTA CLASSICS
A World of Harmony



SINCE 1990, Toyota Motor Corporation has successfully combined world-class cars and classical music through its Toyota Classics series of musical concerts. This annual event is Asia-wide in scope and signifies the company's commitment to build a better world through the arts.

The Toyota Classics has already introduced some of the world's finest orchestras, conductors, soloists and other ensembles to a highly appreciative audience composed of the company's valued clients.

This year, the Toyota Classics will set the stage for yet another acclaimed orchestra: the Spanish-based Cadaques Orchestra, famous for its repertoire that combines well-known symphonies with innovative pieces, historical works and premiers of contemporary composers.

Proceeds from this year's Toyota Classics will be donated to Tabang Mindanaw III, a new fund drive that aims to give humanitarian assistance to displaced Filipinos. Toyota Classics will be supporting Tabang Mindanaw III's mission to provide them with livelihood opportunities that will enable them to settle and sustain their lives in the country.

TOYOTA

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(In exact order)

SUERTRES
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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Associate Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

MEGALOTTO 6/45
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The Inquirer in Busan

- Bustamante-Lining bags gold in 9-ball /A1
- RP 5 vs China today /A20

BOWLING SHOCKER

Ladies team rallies to win silver medal

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—The ladies team grabbed the silver medal in stunning fashion yesterday as bowling returned to the spotlight in the 14th Asian Games here.

Bowling

Down by 100 and given up for lost, Liza Clutario and Ces Yap strung up big games in the homestretch to shoulder the 5-person team past Chinese Taipei in a performance that drew praise from Olympic president Cito Dayrit.

"As I keep saying, we are a fighting race," said Dayrit. "Our lady bowlers proved that again today."

Clutario and Yap joined their teammates Liza del Rosario, Jojo Canare and Irene Benitez in hammering out the come-from-behind silver finish, shocking the Chinese no end.

"I was about to leave already after our ladies were behind by 100," said Steve Hontiveros, president of the Philippine Bowling Congress. "But I stayed on, praying hard they'd make a miracle. And a miracle they did, indeed."

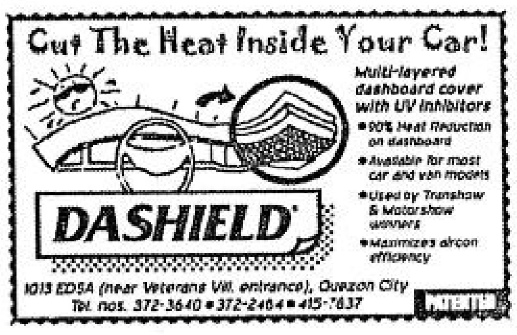
The Filipinas totaled 6095 pinfalls, burning the lanes with amazing strikes coming home to earn a 9-pin margin over Chinese Taipei, which collapsed under the rubble of a Philippine rally gunned up by Clutario's 1300 and Yap's 1294.

They were complemented by the equally inspiring games of Del Rosario (1274), Benitez (1157) and Canare (1070) in a robust followup to the gold medal won Friday night by Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista in the men's doubles.

South Korea won the gold pulling away.

"With this development, my belief got strengthened anew that we might yet score more medals," said Hontiveros, whose two male wards—Biboy Rivera and Chester King—will start their campaign today in the Masters.

The gold medal winner in this division will be known tomorrow.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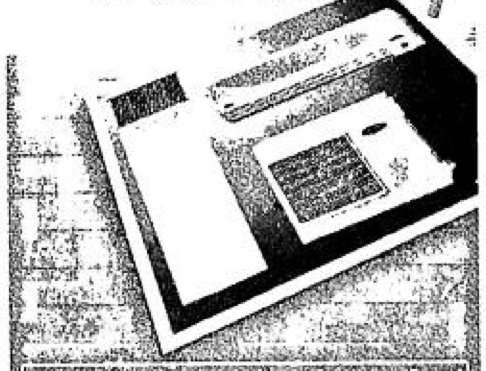

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	2.5 HP	46,000
Carrier	1.0 HP	₱ 29,500
	1.5 HP	32,500
	2.0 HP	41,000
	2.5 HP	46,000
Koppel	1.0 HP	₱ 28,500
	1.5 HP	31,500
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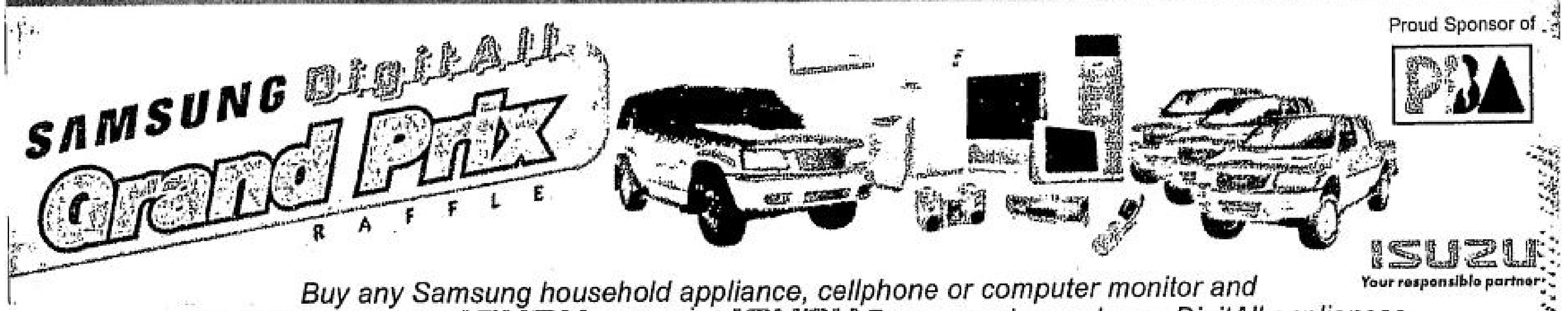
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UAAP HANGOVER

Gonzales, Fonacier finals MVPs

By Dennis U. Eroa

FEARLESS Wesley Gonzales and Larry Fonacier of newly-crowned champion Ateneo emerged as co-winners of the prestigious finals MVP award given for the second straight year by the UAAP Press Corps.

Both standing 6-foot-3, Gonzales and Fonacier won the plum for their outstanding performances in the best-of-three series against La Salle.

Joel Banal, who coached the Eagles to the prestigious title in his first attempt as coach, was the easy choice as mentor of the year.

It was the second straight year that Banal won the best coach plum. The PBL Press Corps also picked him top coach in the Challenge Cup.

"I hope this will not be the last time that I'll receive an award from the press corps," Banal said during the PBL awarding ceremonies.

The UAAP Press Corps is composed of scribes covering the country's most prestigious collegiate sports league.

Playmaker Marvin Cruz of junior titleholder University of the Philippines-Integrated School also bagged the finals MVP award, while a special citation was given to coach Lito Vergara.

Vergara, a former UP Maroon, molded the Preps into a solid fighting machine to beat the Ateneo Eaglets in the finals.

Sportswriters also picked George Chia as Most Improved Player.

A bench-warmer last year, Chia emerged as one of Banal's top guns. He was on his fifth and final playing year for Ateneo.

La Salle gunner BJ Manalo bagged the sportsmanship award.

Chia became talk-of-the town when he made the game-winning shot which powered the Eagles to a nail-biting 72-70 squeaker over the hard-luck University of the East Warriors in the Final Four.

"I am very thankful to the Lord for making this possible," said Gonzales, a true-blooded Sampaloc boy.

Gonzales, a management information system senior, thanked his parents Lydia and Romy for their tremendous support, describing his absence last year in Ateneo's roster as a low point in his career.

"I survived because of my parents' support," Gonzales remembered. It was well-known that Gonzales was axed from the list after a falling out with former mentor Joe Lipa.

"Everyone of ,us has differing opinions," Gonzales, a Michael Jordan fan, said.

With his temper in check, Gonzales played deadly all throughout, destroying the Archers' defense with his variety of moves.

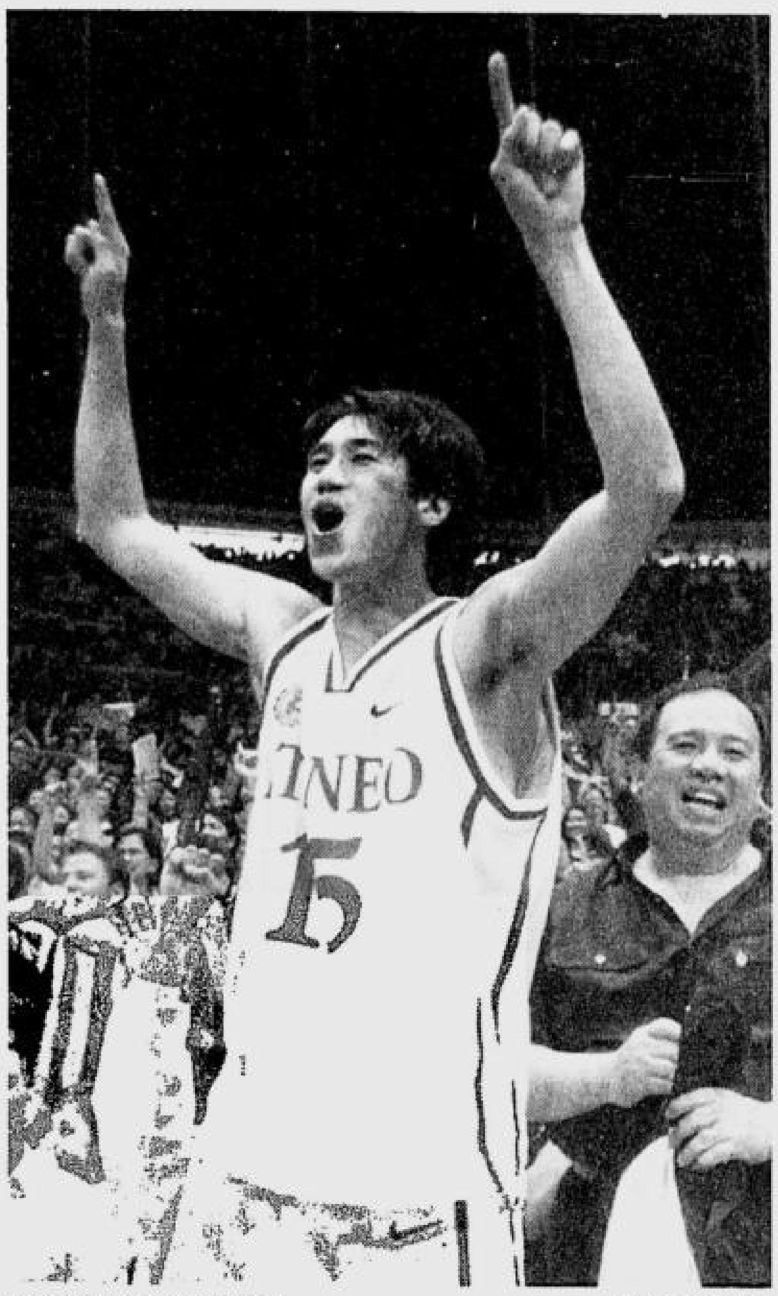
Gonzales' matchup with former rookie of the year Mark Cardona also highlighted the Ateneo-La Salle clash.

In Game One, Gonzales towered over a fallen Cardona as the Archers triumphed, 72-70. He fouled out in Game Two after scoring 11 points and chipped in 16 points and 12 rebounds in the third game.

Like Gonzales, Fonacier also excelled in offense, but the defining moment of his stint came when he twice blocked what could have been Cardona's game-tying shot in the final few seconds of the series-opener.

A high school MVP, Fonacier exploded with 25 points in Ateneo's losing effort in the second game, 85-77. Aside from his outside shooting, Fonacier, like Chia and Gonzales can also play good defense.

FONACIER embraces an Ateneo supporter after winning the title. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



GONZALES whoops it up. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Delasin relinquishes title despite a 67

DOROTHY Joy Delasin relinquished her only remaining title for the season but not without putting up a gallant fight, shooting a five-under-par 67 yesterday to salvage ninth place in the Samsung World Championship in Vallejo, California.

As the field got overwhelmed again by Annika Sorenstam's record-breaking performance, Delasin recovered from her slow start to scatter eight birdies against a double-bogey at the Hiddenbrooke Golf Club and still came up with a decent finish as the defending champion.

Delasin, who won $21,000, and the rest of the pack just weren't ready for another Sorenstam storm.

The Swede star picked up her ninth tournament of the season—beating the record of eight she set in 2001—after she closed out with a 7-under-par 65 to win by six strokes.

"I think I'm playing even better now," said Sorenstam, who shot all four rounds in the 60s. "I want to beat my record last year and here I am."

Posting a 22-under 266 total, Annika banked $162,000 to boost her 2002 earnings to $2,374,000, well over the LPGA record of $2.105 million she set in 2001. Her total was eight better than the tournament record of 14 under, done four times, most recently by Juli Inkster in 2000.

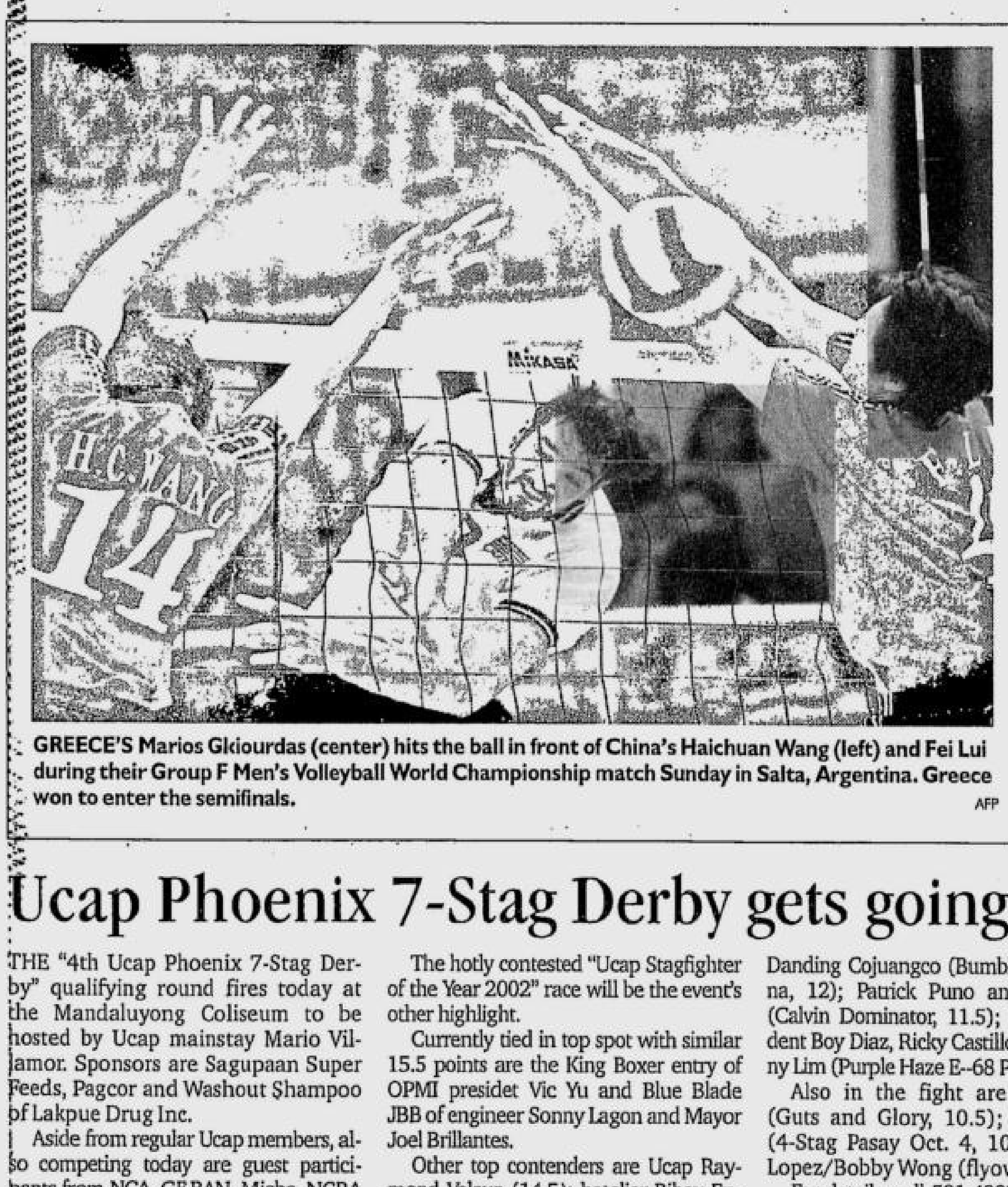
Cristie Kerr finished at 16 under after shooting a 71. Michele Redman eagled the last hole for a 68, finishing third at 15 under. Se Ri Pak (70) and Rosie Jones (71) tied for fourth, finishing 13 under.

Meanwhile, Charles Howell III topped the Michelob Championship for his first title as a pro.

Howell fired a 4-under-par 67 —the best of the day—for a 14-under 270, scoring a two-shot victory over Brandt Jobe and 1996 winner Scott Hoch.

The victory was worth $666,000 and vaulted Howell from 37th place to 18th on the PGA Tour's money list for the season. The victory came in his 68th career start, and he was starting to get annoyed about questions if he felt overdue.

Howell became the 14th first-time winner on the Tour this year, tying the record set in 1991, and the sixth player to break through at this event. He's also the last since it was the 22nd and final Tour event on the River Course, which will host an LPGA tournament next year. *Jong Arcano*



GREECE'S Marios Gkiourdas (center) hits the ball in front of China's Haichuan Wang (left) and Fei Lui during their Group F Men's Volleyball World Championship match Sunday in Salta, Argentina. Greece won to enter the semifinals. AFP

Argentina prevails

BUENOS AIRES—Before a delirious home crowd of 9,000, Argentina upended defending champion Italy in the final match of the second round at the men's World Volleyball Championship Sunday.

After also winning their final matches, Brazil, France and Greece joined Argentina, Italy, Portugal, Russia and Yugoslavia in advancing to the semifinals, which begin Wednesday.

Bulgaria, Japan, Spain, the Netherlands, Poland, China, the United States and the Czech Republic failed to secure a place in the round of eight.

The United States, which headed into its final match Sunday needing a victory over top-ranked Yugoslavia, got one set off the Yugoslavs, but failed to do much more.

AP

Southwoods Invt'l Golf unfolds Oct. 11

THE 2002 Southwoods Invitational, Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club's exciting and much-awaited members' tournaments, is scheduled on Oct. 11 and 12 at the masters and legends courses in Carmona, Cavite.

The SW Invitational is a two-man team event, composed of a Manila Southwoods member and a guest, which is being presented by College Assurance Plan (CAP) and Smart Communications.

A brand new Mitsubishi Lancer GSR, an Alaskan Cruise Package and a complete set of Wilson golf clubs will be up for grabs a hole-in-one prizes. Mitsubishi Motors Philippines/Diamond Motors Corp., Princess Cruises and Wilson are the hole-in-one sponsors.

According to Alfredo Mendoza, chairman of the sports and games committee of Manila Southwoods, a total of 175 two-man teams have confirmed participation in the two-day event.

Entry fee is pegged at P6,000 per team inclusive of give-aways, dinner, a raffle ticket and free practice rounds from Oct. 3 to 10.

"All teams will be divided into four groups based on the handicap of the member. Class A is from 0-9 handicap, Class B (10-15), Class C (16-21) and Class D (22-27)," Mendoza said.

Mendoza also said that members with handicaps of 28 and above would use the maximum handicap of 27. Guests will have a maximum handicap of 24. Handicaps will be based on handicap index for the month of September 2002.

Aguinaldo rules golfest

AGUINALDO, behind the 43 points of jungolf standout Matet Salivio, pulled off a surprise victory in Class A in the recent seventh and penultimate leg of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) 2002 Circuit at the newly regreened Legends course of Manila Southwoods.

Salivio got the needed support from Grace Atienza (40 points), Rita Horan (38) and Emily Mangulabnan (36) in posting a seven-point over host Southwoods with a 157 aggregate. The favored Sta. Elena team could only place third at 149.

Alabang ruled Class B while Villamor captured Class C honors.

Alabang's Kathy Ong, Joan Morales, Maridith Limjoco and Alice Andrada had 150 points to beat Villamor by one. Sta. Elena wound up third at 148.

Tina Yupangco, Maity Holigores, Lydia Reyes and Nancy Tsay scored 136 point for a narrow one-point win over Alabang with Southwoods coming in third just two points behind.

The elimination series winds up on Oct. 21 at Sta. Elena with the top four teams advancing to the WGAP Cup, the match play finale in November.

Sta. Elena and Southwoods are almost assured of slots while Villamor, Aguinaldo and Navy are fighting it out for the remaining two.

Individual winners for the Southwoods leg were Beachie Abiera of Southwoods in Class A with 42 points, Shirley Romualdez of Sta. Elena in Class B with 41 and Abbe Tayao also of Sta. Elena in Class C.

Ucap Phoenix 7-Stag Derby gets going

THE "4th Ucap Phoenix 7-Stag Derby" qualifying round fires today at the Mandaluyong Coliseum to be hosted by Ucap mainstay Mario Villamor. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds, Pagcor and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug Inc.

Aside from regular Ucap members, also competing today are guest participants from NCA, GF-BAN, Migba, NGBA and Balbina Group.

The hotly contested "Ucap Stagfighter of the Year 2002" race will be the event's other highlight.

Currently tied in top spot with similar 15.5 points are the King Boxer entry of OPMI presidet Vic Yu and Blue Blade JBB of engineer Sonny Lagon and Mayor Joel Brillantes.

Other top contenders are Ucap Raymond Velayo (14.5); hotelier Biboy Enriquez (Firebird II, 12); ambassador Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Bee Balbina, 12); Patrick Puno and Alan Tan (Calvin Dominator, 11.5); LGBA president Boy Diaz, Ricky Castillo and Anthony Lim (Purple Haze E--68 Piwa, 11.5);

Also in the fight are Alex Tang (Guts and Glory, 10.5); Benjie Lim (4-Stag Pasay Oct. 4, 10) and Ram Lopez/Bobby Wong (flyover, 10).

For details, call 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

Cebu teams see action in Makati cagefest

A PAIR of tough varisty teams from Cebu are coming to spice up the Colleges and Universities Basketball Challenge Cup set for Nov. 9-25 at the Makati Coliseum.

University of Visayas and University of San Jose-Recoletos, finalists in the recent Cebu Schools Athletics Foundation Inc., are set to represent Visayas in the cagefest pitting the top 16 varsity teams from all over the country.

Former national coach Joe Lipa established the tourney patterned after the project of sports patron Danding Cojuangco in the '80s.

TAEKWONDO BACKER

The Philippine Taekwondo Team was recently given a send-off party by Petron Corp., main backer of the team which is competing in the Busan Games. Photo shows the squad with Motassim Al-Ma'ashouq (center), president of Petron Corporation; Robert Aventajado, president of Philippine Taekwondo Association and Nicasio Alcantara, chair and CEO.

'Nepomuceno, Bautista cheated out of gold'

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—The country's first gold medal was brought in by two left-handers from bowling. Next thing they knew, they were victims of foul play in their bid for a second gold medal in the 14th Asian Games here.

"They realized it too late," said Botchok Rey, the most vocal member of the bowling team. "The battle was almost over when they spotted the difference."

He was referring to his teammates Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista, the Games' lovable lefties who delivered the gold medal in men's doubles Friday night.

"The hosts employed another dirty trick of rigging the lanes so that Paeng and RJ would not be able to repeat their gold-medal performance in their next event, which is the men's trio," said Rey.

The 34-year-old, Pasig-based Rey won the men's silver trio Sunday night in the company of Chester King and CJ Suarez, avenging the setback suffered by Nepomuceno and Bautista as their victims were the hosts themselves.

"Serves them right," said Rey, referring to their South Korean rivals who fell to fourth after they got overtaken by the rallying Filipinos in the second block.

Rey said the morning after the gold-medal victory of Nepomuceno and Bautista, he discovered that the South Koreans employed a private company to oil the lanes in a manner that would alter the roll of the ball for lefties.

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

"There is actually an oiling company designated by the Busan Asian Games Committee (Bagoc) to do the job," said Rey. "But once they realized that our Paeng and RJ were having a feast on their lanes the night before, they suddenly oiled it to the detriment of lefties like Paeng and RJ."

Rey said there was not a single lefty in the Korean bowling lineup.

Just the other day, Rey also accused the hosts of creating man-made delays when frequent brownouts engulfed the bowling lanes at the height of the men's trio.

"They were meant to disrupt the automatic pin-setters," he said. "The other delays, like switching the lights off that darkened the conditions of the lanes, were employed in their bid to destroy our momentum when we were rallying."

He said the Chinese Taipei squad had fallen victim to that.

"Four times they did it against Chinese Taipei," said Rey. "They eventually lost to the South Koreans in the battle for the gold in another event."

Steve Hontiveros, president of the Philippine Bowling Congress, ordered his team of six male and six female players to "keep your cool" and continue playing for the country. He promised to call the attention of the hosts about Rey's observation.

"The condition of the lanes is always crucial for every bowler," said Hontiveros. "It can spell either defeat or victory."

The bowlers are proving to be the most prolific thus far with one gold, one silver and one bronze to account for three of country's total of nine medals with a week left in the Games.

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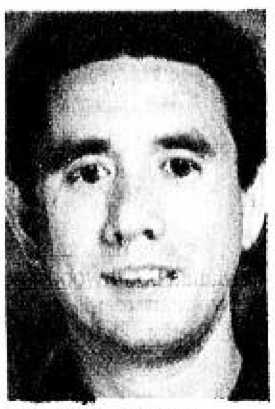
Paeng misses out on 3 more gold medals

Al S. Mendoza


NEPOMUCENO

BUSAN, South Korea—Paeng Nepomuceno will leave the 14th Asian Games with "only" one gold medal tucked under his belt.

After getting what teammate Botchok Rey described as a "raw deal for our lefties" (*see related story*) in the men's trio, Paeng lost in his second bid for the gold on Sunday.

It was the consensus of everybody that the hosts used an unauthorized oiling machine on the lanes to the detriment of left-handed bowlers like Nepomuceno and his partner RJ Bautista the morning after both won the country's gold in men's doubles.

Yesterday, Nepomuceo failed to make it to the Masters set to start today.

Only the Top 2 players from each country who made the Top 16 after three days of competition are qualified to play in the Masters.

Despite the setbacks, Paeng still felt satisfied with his lone gold medal—a dream-come-true for someone who has been aching to end the Asian Games jinx of 16 years or so.

Before his victory with Bautista came on Friday, Nepomuceno's best finish was second in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad.

The 45-year-old Nepomuceno, a four-time World Cup winner and the only bowler to be included in the Guinness Book of World Records, has had surgery on his left wrist.

RP-China match shown on NBN 4

THE NATIONAL Broadcasting Network will be airing the crucial RP vs China basketball match from 6 to 8 tonight.

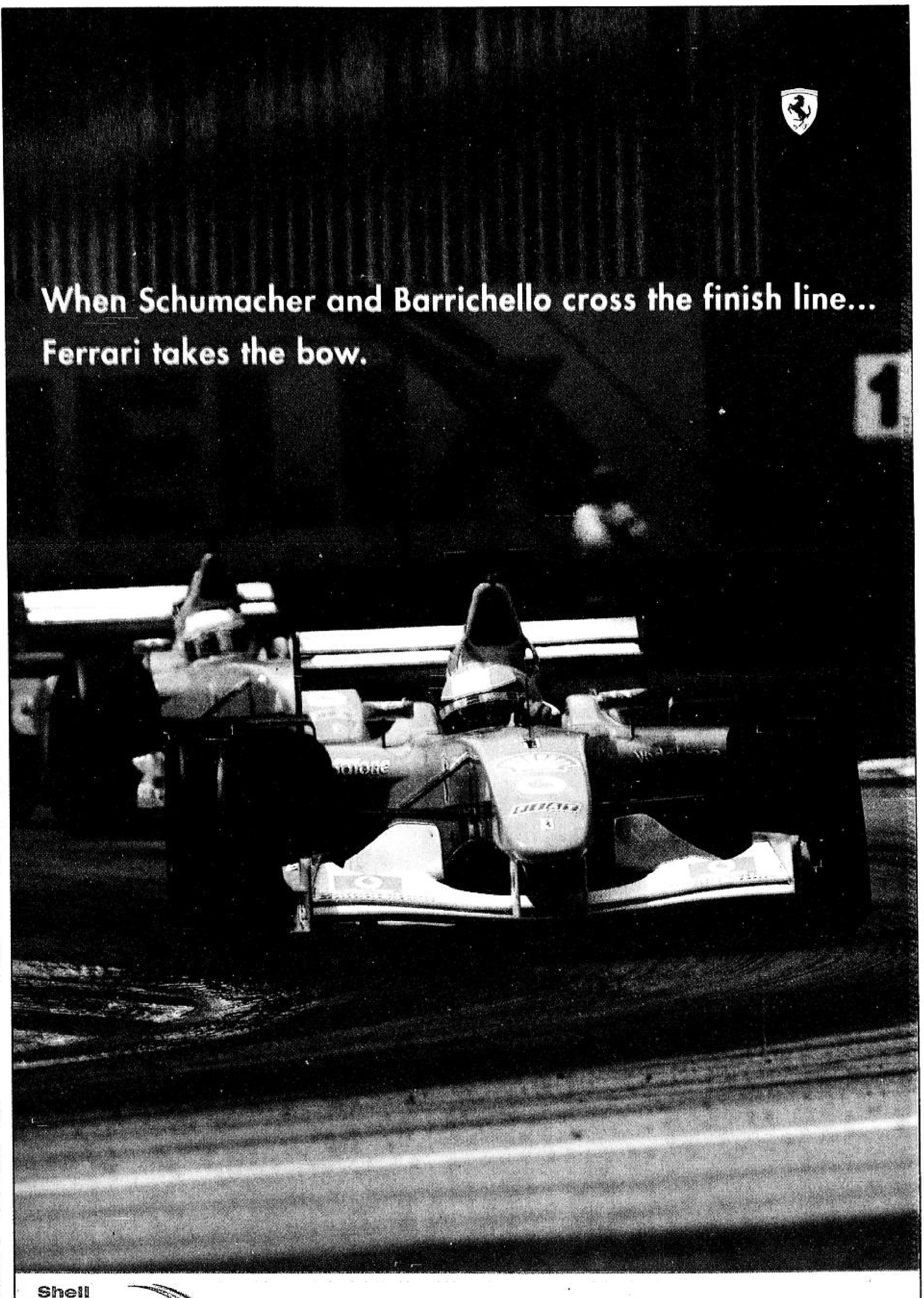
Overall Asian Games director Ed Finlan made the decision upon numerous requests from sports fans who want to see the blow-by-blow account of the match and how our big men led by Asi Taulava will tackle the Yao Ming-powered China.

The other highlights of NBN's Busan Asian Games telecast are the men's volleyball match between India and Qatar at 10 a.m.; boxing and athletics which will be aired from 1:30 to 6 p.m.; and the Asian Games recap from 10:30 to 11:30 p.m.

NBN SKED

Oct. 8, 2002 Direct from Busan

9 a.m.-10 a.m.–Athletics
10 a.m.-12 nn–Men's Volleyball: India vs Qatar
1:30 p.m.-6 p.m.–Boxing and Athletics plus other highlight events
6 p.m.-8 p.m.–Basketball: RP vs China
10 p.m.-10:30 p.m.–Athletics or Boxing
10:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m.–Asian Games Recap
11:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.–Diving/Women's Volleyball: Korea vs Chinese Taipei



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ASIAD BASKETBALL

RP 5 faces China today

Luck strikes only once, says Uichico

GAME TODAY
7 p.m.-RP vs China

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

Basketball

BUSAN, South Korea—Jong Uichico knows it. China is the Great Wall of the Asian Games.

"China is very, very strong and we have to be very, very strong too if we intend to beat them" said Uichico, head coach of the Philippine cagers who will face the Chinese at 7 p.m. at the Geuomjeong Gymnasium.

While he is realistic enough as to say China is almost invincible here, Uichico maintains that upbeat feeling that it can be done, that China can be beaten.

"As we always love to say, the ball is round," he said. "Anything can happen. If we get the luck, *salamat*. Once we get it, we'll not let go of it as luck strikes only once."

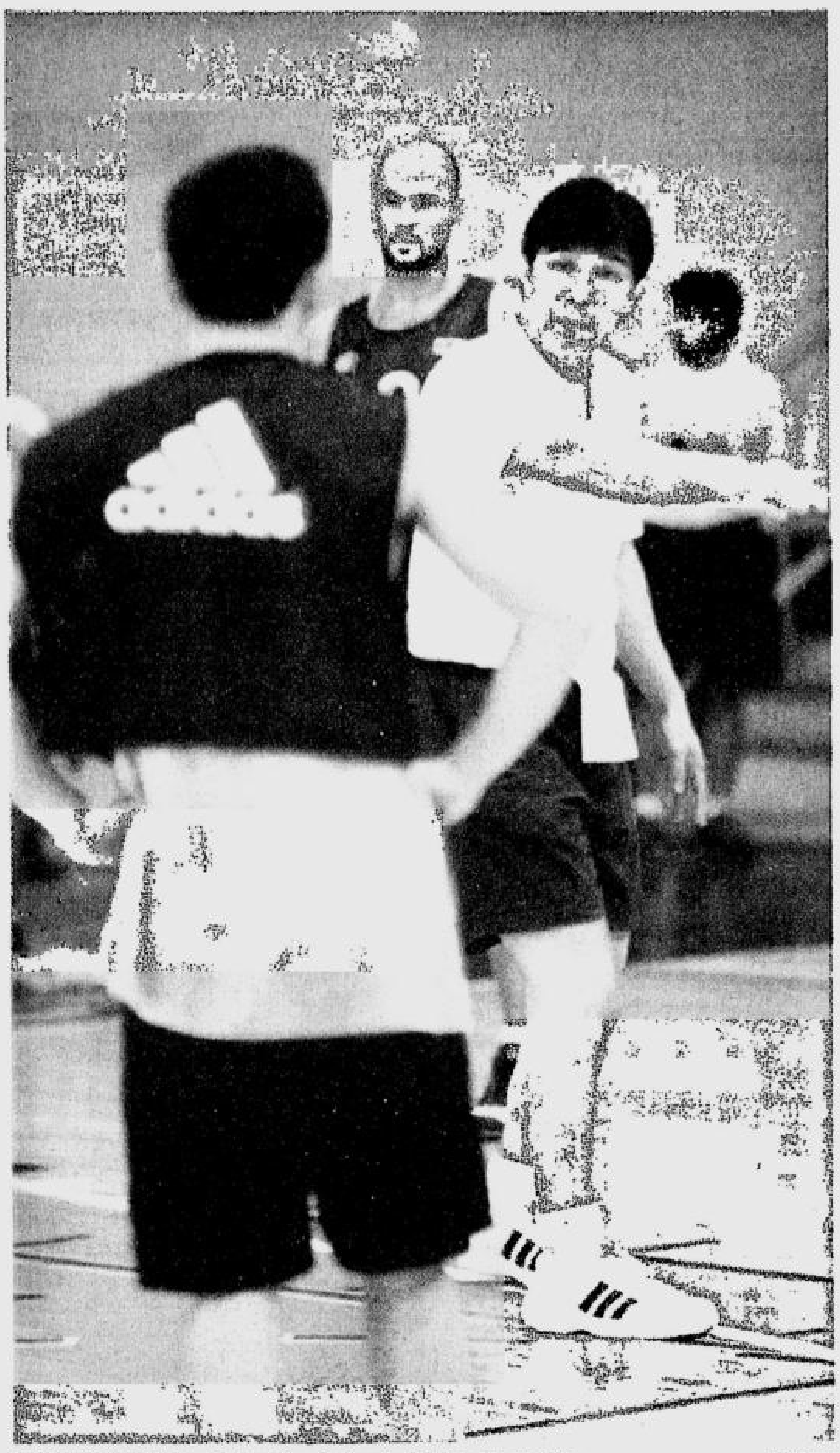
They practiced yesterday and the focus of the workout was to stick to the Chinese "whatever happens."

Said Uichico: "The game plan is to stick to them. We will not let them grab the lead immediately as the Chinese are known to stage jack rabbit starts. Once they post a 50-, 15-point lead, it will be hard to catch them. They'll just keep that lead, and next wear you down with their running game."

Technically, the game is no bearing as both teams have virtually entered the semifinals. The consequence of the match is for positioning.

The winner takes on Kazakhstan while the loser faces South Korea, which is also being ballyhooed as a potential champion judging from the way they massacred their opponents.

Thus, a loss for the Filipinos would pit them against the Koreans, with the winner advancing to the finals and the loser battling for the bronze.


UICHICO (right) gives instruction during the RP Team's practice. JESS YUSON

Buenavista rips RP mark; Lerma misses bronze

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Eduardo Buenavista shattered a long standing national record, while Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito landed an inch short of the bronze medal yesterday at the start of the 14th Asian Games track and field competitions at the Asiad Main Stadium.

Running true to form, Buenavista, the 5-foot track wonder from Banga, South Cotabato, clocked 29 minutes and 2 seconds, eclipsing the 22-year-old national standard of 30:34 and becoming the first Filipino to break the 30-minute barrier in the 10,000m run.

It was only good for seventh among 15 entries, however, as the Middle East entries bared their prowess with under 29-minute performances.

Saudi Arabia's Al Otaibi Makhid checked in first in 28:41.89, Qatar's Hashim Ahmed Ibrahim second (28:43.55) and Bahrain's Zakaria Abdul Hak third (28:46.11).

The tale of woe belonged to Bulauitan in the long jump. She actually tied with Kazakhstan's Yelena Koschcyeva for third at 6.30m, but the Kazkh, the reigning Asian Athletic Association Championships titlist, claimed the bronze because she cleared it in just one attempt while Bulauitan needed two.

"I'm proud of him (Buenavista). He met our expectations, but the Middle East entries turned out to be too powerful," said Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok. "What's painful was Lerma's defeat. *Sayang talaga.*"

Go pointed out that Buenavista's effort surpassed the Southeast Asian Games mark of 29:47.79 and would have been enough for the gold medal in the Asian Athletic Association Championships held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in August as Ibrahim's winning time then was 30.31.5.

BULAUITAN competes in the women's long jump. JESS YUSON

"There's nothing to be ashamed of. Buenavista gave it all, but the field turned out to be a lot stronger than in the 1998 Asiad," said national coach Mario Castro, who owns the record Buenavista broke.

Another Filipino long jump entry, Marestella Torres placed sixth.

The Filipino tracksters resume their medal drive today with Ernie Candelario seeing action in the 400m run and John Lozada competing in the 800m semifinals.

2002 Busan Asian Games
DREAM 4 GOLD

'Bring on Tiger'

BUSAN, South Korea—Shiv Kapur, the golf gold medalist in the Asian Games, wants to create sporting history by becoming the first Indian to take on Tiger Woods on the United States PGA Tour.

Kapur, one of the leading college players in the States, said that he would attempt to qualify for the cash-rich PGA Tour when he completes his studies in 2003.

"My goal is to play on the US PGA Tour after I graduate from college," said Kapur, who attends Perdue University in Indianapolis.

"That is where all golfers want to play. You can compete against Tiger Woods and other top players every second week or so." History is on Kapur's side as two of the last three winners of the Asian Games gold— Japan's Shigeki Maruyama and Kaname Yokoo—are currently starring on the US PGA Tour.

Kapur added that the string of firsts by Indian players Jeev Milkha Singh, Arjun Atwal and Jyoti Randhawa had inspired him to hone his game on a golf scholarship in the United States.

"If it was not for those guys and what they have done on the Asian PGA Tour and the European Tour, I would not have come this far," said the 20-year-old Kapur.

"Jeev was the first Indian to play full time on the European Tour and Arjun won the Caltex Singapore Masters earlier this year, the first Indian to have a victory on the European Tour. Their achievements excited me." Kapur added that he had been determined to break the mould of Indian amateur golf where par performances were often good enough to win competitions.

"The Indian amateur circuit is not competitive enough—you can shoot 71 or 72 and win. I realized that shooting even par 72 was not going to get me anywhere," he said.

"I decided that either I should give up the game or try hard to make it my career. No way did I want to end up a mediocre player. I think I made the right decision to go to the United States. I am getting the right training.

"I have told everyone (on the Indian amateur scene) that they should make the move to America. It is not just the golf—you live on your own and mature quicker." Kapur, whose best performance before his Asian Games success was victory in the 2000 Malaysian Amateur Open, revealed that having Thailands Prom Meesawat as his playing partner in the final round had helped him to victory.

"Prom and I are good friends and we played a lot as juniors. I like talking during a round and we chatted about America, the fun I was having there, the parties," he said.

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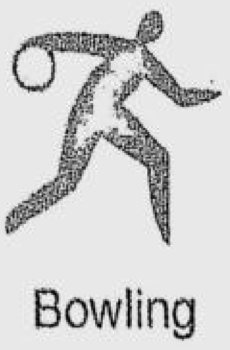
Rivera, King eye Masters golds

By Al S. Mendoza



BUSAN, South Korea—Biboy Rivera and Chester King, both gold medallists in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEA Games, advanced to the bowling Masters that starts today in the Asian Games here.

The 25-year-old King, a civil engineering graduate from the University of Sto. Tomas, who was also the Asian Masters titlist in this city last year, will join Rivera in the hunt for the second gold in bowling-and the country's third.

The 27-year-old Rivera, who won the gold in the 5-man team of the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Games, and King are the country's best finishers yesterday from among the Top 16 in the final tabulation of scores previous to today's Masters.

"I hope we can win one more gold," said Steve Hontiveros, president of the Philippine Bowling Congress. "That will make the victory of Paeng (Nepomuceno) and RJ (Bautista) doubly memorable."

Nepomuceno and Bautista won the men's doubles on Friday night for the country's first gold in the 16-day Asiad.

The duo fell victim to what other competitors said was the manipulation of the hosts to alter the character of the lanes as the Filipinos lost out in both the men's trio and 5-man events (*see related story*).

Starting from scratch again, King and Rivera will hope to enter the Top 3 in the Masters that ends tomorrow, with No. 1 taking a bye and meeting the winner between the knockout match pitting No. 2 and No. 3.

The finalists will next go into a two-game series to determine the gold medallist.

"The pressure is on us but I'm hopeful the boys will pull through," said Hontiveros. "I'm going to pray hard for them again the way I did before Paeng and RJ won."

BLAST FROM BUSAN

Valuable info and releases

By Al, Roy and Jess

VETERAN newsman Gus Villanueva have make things a little lighter for Filipino reporters and editors covering the 14th Asian Games. As head of the Philippine Olympic Committee secretariat, he has provided local media with valuable information and releases needed to embellish their stories. Ably assisting Villanueva is former sports editor Ernie Gonzales, Boying Santos Viola and Lorenzo Manguiat.

*Filipino athletes never ran out of things to do in the Athletes Village. They play billiards or sweat it out in the fitness gym. Some simply stroll around the manicured lawns and the nearby mall. For those who stay in their rooms, "tong-its" is the usual pastime. Of course, the internet room is another popular destination. Among those who like non-traditional recreation, face-painting is preferred. Boxer Chris Camat and equestrienne Mikee Cojuangco have tried it, with Camat choosing the Philippine flag and Cojuangco the names of her two children.

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

*Traffic here is also a problem, especially during rush hours. To ease the situation, the odd-even scheme is being adopted during the Asian Games. There are many fast taxi drivers here, some exceeding 100 kph when the situation permits. One thing that differentiates them from their Manila counterparts, however, is they don't violate traffic regulations. They would also let you board the cab regardless of the traffic situation in your destination.

*Surprisingly, there are many Roman Catholics here. Members and officials of the Philippine basketball team found this out when they went to church on Sunday. Filipino members of the congregation say they would be praying for the success of the dribblers and the Philippine delegation here.

*Yemen is one country which values participation more than competition. It has yet to win a medal since it first participated in the 1982 Asian Games. That did not deter the Yemenis, however, from sending 42 athletes here to compete in 10 events. Delegation secretary general Abdullah Mohd Al-Kebsi said: "We are here not for medals. We are here to participate, for getting experience, for training our athletes and lastly for recreation."

Filipino bets busiest today

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Filipino athletes will be busiest today in the 14th Asian Games.

They will be competing in 19 events, including bowling and billiards, which have produced the most medals for the country thus far.

Diving competitions open at the Sajik Swimming Pool, with Jaime Asok and Rexel Fabriga vying for medals in the 10m synchronized event.

The 17-year-old Asok, son of a fisherman and a vendor from Davao, placed fourth in this year's China Open 8th Grand Prix.

Fabrica, 16, who hails from Zamboanga, also landed fourth in the same tournament.

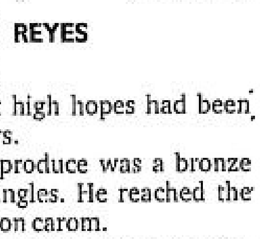
Both are hoping to put up a creditable performance in diving, where the Chinese reign supreme.

Other disciplines where the Filipinos are taking part are athletics, archery, badminton, basketball, boxing, canoeing and kayaking, cycling, gymnastics, sailing, sepak takraw, shooting, soft tennis, table tennis and weightlifting.

Contact sports, where the Filipinos hope to make an impact, like karatedo and taekwondo have yet to start.

Together with wushu, these disciplines have also been identified as probable source of medals.

Bata's turn to have jinx in A. Games


REYES

BUSAN, South Korea—With bowler Paeng Nepomuceno ending his Asian Games jinx here, it's Bata Reyes' turn to grapple with that "disease."

Heavily favored to win here, Bata lost both his assignments in the 8-ball singles and 3-cushion carom.

He was not actually tipped to win the 3-cushion carom. It is in the 8-ball singles that high hopes had been pinned on his shoulders.

But all Bata could produce was a bronze medal in the 8-ball singles. He reached the quarters of the 3-cushion carom.

Before Nepomuceno broke his own jinx and won the men's doubles with RJ Bautista on Friday night, his best finish was a silver in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad.

Bata, the 1999 world champion and known internationally as billiards' Mr. Magician, will have to wait four more years before he could avenge his defeats.

But by the time the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, comes along, Bata would be 52 already. *ASM*

Django, Nikoy end frustrations of cue masters

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Antonio "Nikoy" Lining delivered under pressure to claim the 9-ball doubles title yesterday, snapping the string of frustrations the Filipino cue masters have gone through in the 14th Asian Games.

Recovering from a faulty start, Bustamante and Lining nipped South Koreans Jeong Young Hwa and Kim Won Sook, 11-9, in the race to 11 finals that saw the Filipinos trail most of the time.

They fell behind, 3-0, and were still down at 9-8 when Bustamante got the big break and tied the count. The world billiards champion had a run-out for 10-9, after which Lining delivered the killing blow. Lining's explosive break knocked in three balls and the rest easily fell one by one.

"*Masayang-masaya kami at nabigyan namin ng ginto ang Pilipinas,*" chorused Bustamante and Lining. "*Nalamangan kami dahil masama ang umpisa namin, pero noong maka-tie kami sa 9-9 biglang nag-iba ang tira ng kalaban.*"

Bustamante said his decision to skip the US Open bore fruit. Given the honor to carry the Philippine flag during the opening day parade, he was determined to make the most out of the lone chance accorded him by the coaching staff.

"*Ang gintong ito ay para sa namatay kong anak, sa mga kababayan nating dumayo dito at sa milyon-milyong Pilipinong nanalangin para sa amin,*" said Bustamante, referring to his daughter, Mariel, who died at seven months while he was seeing action in the World Pool Championships in Cardiff, Wales, where he placed second.

This time, Bustamante brought along his wife, Milagros, and 3-year-old son, Junior, to provide him inspiration.

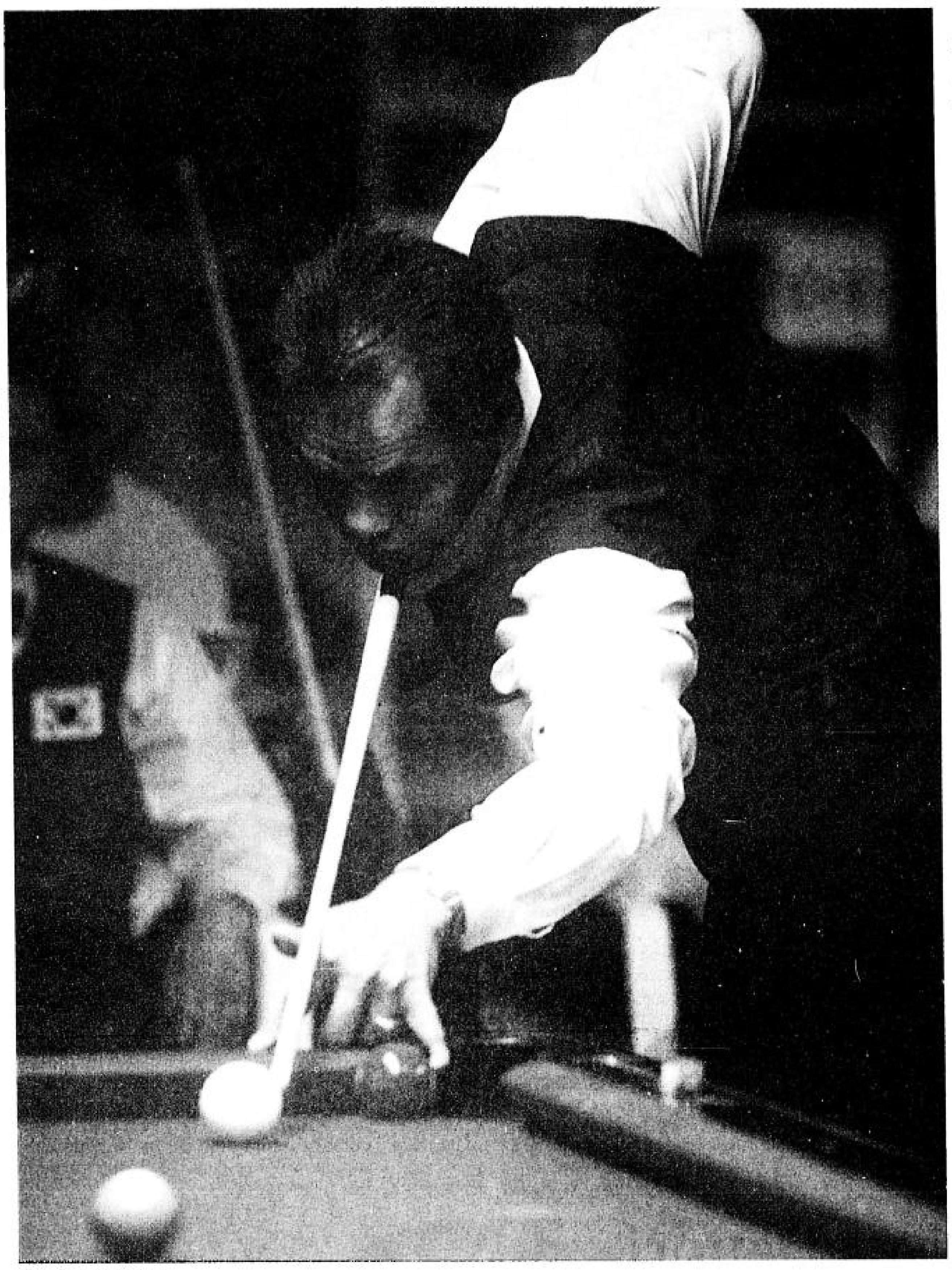
Lining, who hails from Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, was motivated by his desire to exact revenge as it was Jeong who deprived him of the bronze medal in the 9-ball singles Sunday night.

"*Nakabawi na ako,*" said Lining, a 38-year-old like Bustamante.

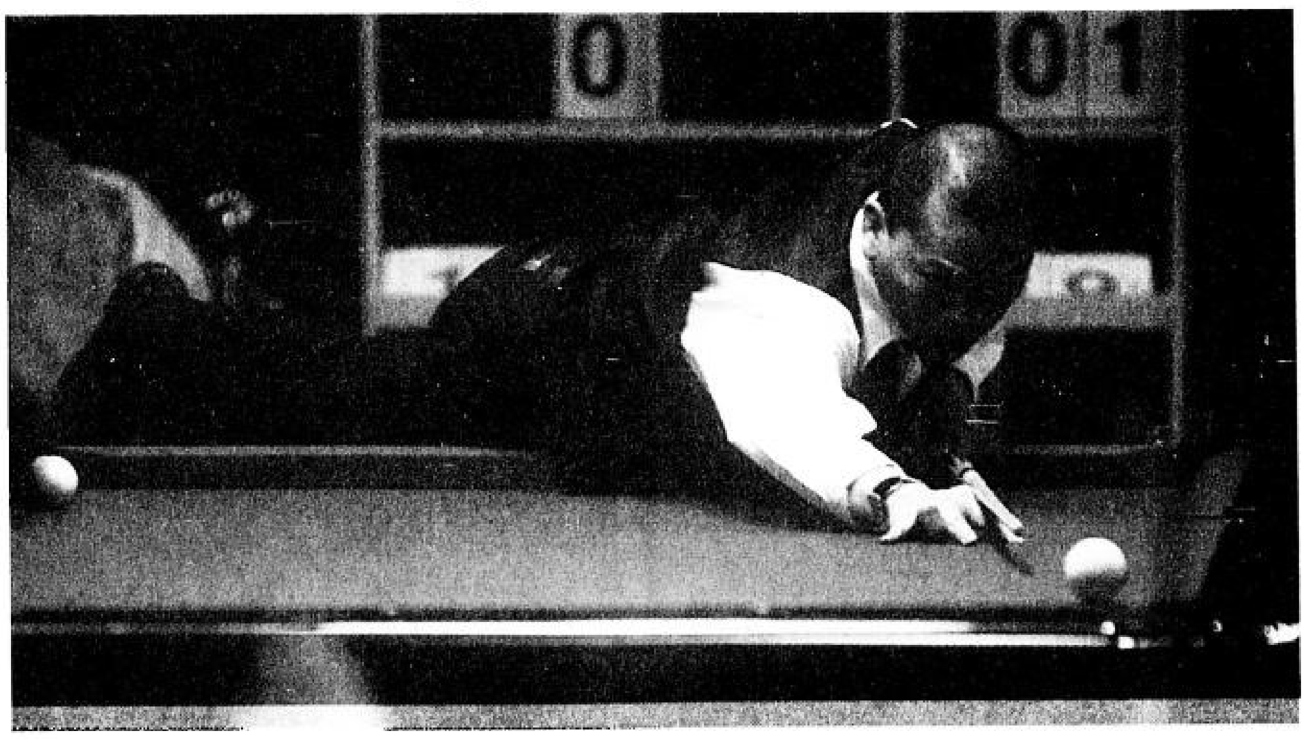
Bustamante will fly directly to Maryland, USA, today to compete in the newly organized 7-ball sudden death challenge which offers $25,000 (P1.2 million) to the champion.

He needs to even as he and Lining stand to receive at least P1.5 million in incentive (P1 million from the Philippine Sports Commission and P.5 million from Samsung). He has done his duty, it's time to go after the green money.

Reynaldo Grandea bowed to Japan's Akio Shimada, 50-21, in their battle for the bronze in the 3-cushion carom.



GOLDEN DUO
Django Bustamante (above) aims for his shot during the 9-ball doubles competitions. "I dedicate this victory to the Filipino people," Bustamante said in a telephone call to Puyat Sports President Aristeo "Putch" Puyat yesterday after he and Antonio Lining (below) won the gold medal. From Busan, Bustamante will fly to Baltimore to play in the Sudden Death 7-Ball on Oct. 9. Then he and Efren "Bata" Reyes will proceed to England to see action in the World Pool Master on Oct. 18-20 before returning home. JESS YUSON



RP SKED IN BUSAN

Oct. 8, 2002
(Korea time 1 hr, ahead of RP time)

Athletics 11 a.m.—E Candelario, 400m run (semifinal, depending on 1st rd results)
3 p.m.—J. Lozada, 800m run (semifinal, depending on 1st rd results)
Archery 9 a.m. to 12 noon—Olympic round, women's individual (1/32, 1/16, 1/8, depending on scores in previous rounds)
2 to 5 p.m.—Women's individual (qrtrfinal, semifinal, 3rd-4th, 1st-2nd, depending on scores in previous rounds)
Baseball 2 p.m.—No. 1 vs No.4 (semifinal, depending on RP team results in previous matches)
6 p.m.—No. 2 vs No.3 (semifinal, depending on RP team results in previous matches)
Basketball 7 p.m.—Quarterfinal round (depending on RP team results in prelim)
Bowling 1 to 3:30 p.m.—men, women (first 8-game block)
Boxing 2 p.m.—All events (qrtrfinal, no draw yet)
Cycling 10 to 10:10 a.m.—B. Dimacali, keirin (1/2 final, depending on results in previous rounds)
10:40 to 11:40 a.m.—P. Curtan Jr., V. Espiritu, Madison (1/2 final)
11:40 to 11:50 a.m.—Keirin (7th-12th)
1:40 to 1:50 p.m.—B. Dimacali, sprint (3rd-4th, 1st-2nd, finals, 1st depending on results in previous rounds)
2:10 to 2:20 p.m.— Sprint (3rd-4th, 1st-2nd, finals, 2nd)
2:40 to 2:50 p.m.— Sprint (3rd-4th, 1st-2nd, finals, 3rd)
Diving 7 p.m.—J. Asok, R. Fabriga, 10m synchronized diving (finals)
Sailing 11 a.m.—R. Balladares, R. Chavez, J. Villena, L. Taroja, men/women, all classes (9th, 10th races)
Shooting 9 a.m.—N. Padilla, 25m standard pistol
Table Tennis 3:30 p.m.—C. Abas, women's singles (prelim, 8th, qrtrfinal)
Wrestling 10 a.m. to 12 noon—J. Angana, 50kg freesytle, M. Basas, 74 kg freestyle; M. Valda, 96 kg freestyle (prelim, 3rd round, classification round, semifinal)
4 to 5:40 p.m.—60 kg freestyle (3rd-4th, finals), 74kg freestyle (3rd-4th, finals), 96kg freestyle (3rd-4th, finals),

Paradorn makes Asiad debut, teams up with brod to prevail

BUSAN, South Korea—Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan, fresh off a victory over top-ranked Lleyton Hewitt, made his Asian Games tennis debut here Monday in men's doubles with a victory alongside his brother Narathorn.

Paradorn and Narathorn beat Macau's Lei Hou-in and Kuan Chu-shek, 6-0, 6-0, in a first-round men's doubles match. The Thai duo next face the third-seeded Japanese duo of Goichi Motomura and Thomas Shimada.

Paradorn, ranked 31st on the ATP Tour, is the top seed in men's singles and will begin his quest for that gold medal Tuesday against Kyrgyzstan's Eduard Koifman with Tajikistan's Sergei Makashin awaiting in the third round.

Paradorn topped Aussie star Hewitt in the quarter-finals of the ATP Japan Open but lost in the semi-finals. His breakout year has also included his first ATP title, in August on Long Island, and a win over Andre Agassi at Wimbledon.

Women's singles top seed Tamarine opened in mixed doubles, joining Vittaya Samrej in a 6-1, 6-0 first-round triumph over Mongolia's Baatar Oyunbold and Khishigtagtokh Khandsuren.

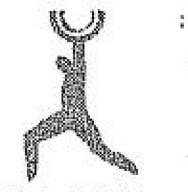
Up next for the Thai duo are seventh-seeded Ivanna Isroilova and Dmitry Tomashevich of Uzbekistan.

Men's doubles top seeds Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi, who split six months ago but have reunited in hopes of bringing India gold, opened with a 6-0, 6-1 second-round victory over Pakistan's Rashid Malik and Aqeel Khan.

The three-time Grand Slam men's doubles champions advanced to Wednesday's quarter-finals. *AFP*

5 world marks fall; Chinese makes history

BUSAN, South Korea—Five world records were shattered at the Asian Games here Monday as Chinese weightlifter Sun Ruiping hoisted herself into history with a logic-defying display.



Barely 24 hours after compatriot Liu Chunhong had set three world records in the 69kg class, Sun confirmed China's status as weightlifting's superpower with an extraordinary performance in the women's 75kg class.

Sun was challenged briefly when Tatyana Khromova of Kazakhstan set a new world record of 118kg in the snatch section of the event. But Sun responded immediately with a lift of 118.5kg to set a new best.

The Chinese woman then obliterated the existing record of 143kg for clean and jerk. She lifted 145kg and then raised the bar weight by an astonishing 7.5kg to set another record, 152.5kg.

Her combined total of 271kg was also a massive leap forward from the previous overall best of 257.5kg.

Sun and Khromova's duel brought to 12 the number of weightlifting world records that have been set at the games, and overshadowed the opening track and field events on day nine of the Asiad. *AFP*

28-year wait over for Japan

BUSAN, South Korea—Japan won its first Asian Games men's team tennis gold medal since 1974 here on Monday when it crushed defending champions South Korea 2-0 in the best-of-three-final.

Unheralded duo Michihisa Onoda and Takahiro Terachi stunned the home fans as Japan avenged its final defeat at the hands of the same opponents at the last Games in Bangkok in 1998.

After Onoda had seen off Yoon Yong-Il, it was left to Terachi to finish the job beating leading Korean player Lee Hyun-Taik 6-4, 6-2 to continue Japan's recent stranglehold over Korea.

Back in February, they had defeated their old rivals in the Davis Cup for the first time in 19 years, a result that meant Korea were forced into a relegation scrap to preserve their Asian zone group one status.

"I knew I had to play a lot better because the last time I met Lee he beat me 6-1, 6-2," said Terachi looking back on his Asian Championships mismatch last December.

"I caused him plenty of problems today. I made sure I kept putting the ball in play and he made a lot of mistakes.

"It was important for me not to lose today because of what happened in 1998 and to beat the same team here on their home ground is just fantastic," added Terachi, whose world ranking is a humble 320 compared to Lee's 82.

Onoda got Japan off to a flying start with a quickfire demolition of Yoon Yong-Il, winning the opening rubber 6-1, 6-3 to continue his impressive run of form at the tournament.

In the semi-finals, the 24-year-old had saved a match point against top seeds Uzbekistan and despite going down a break early in the second set on Monday, he was never really troubled by an erratic Yoon. *AFP*

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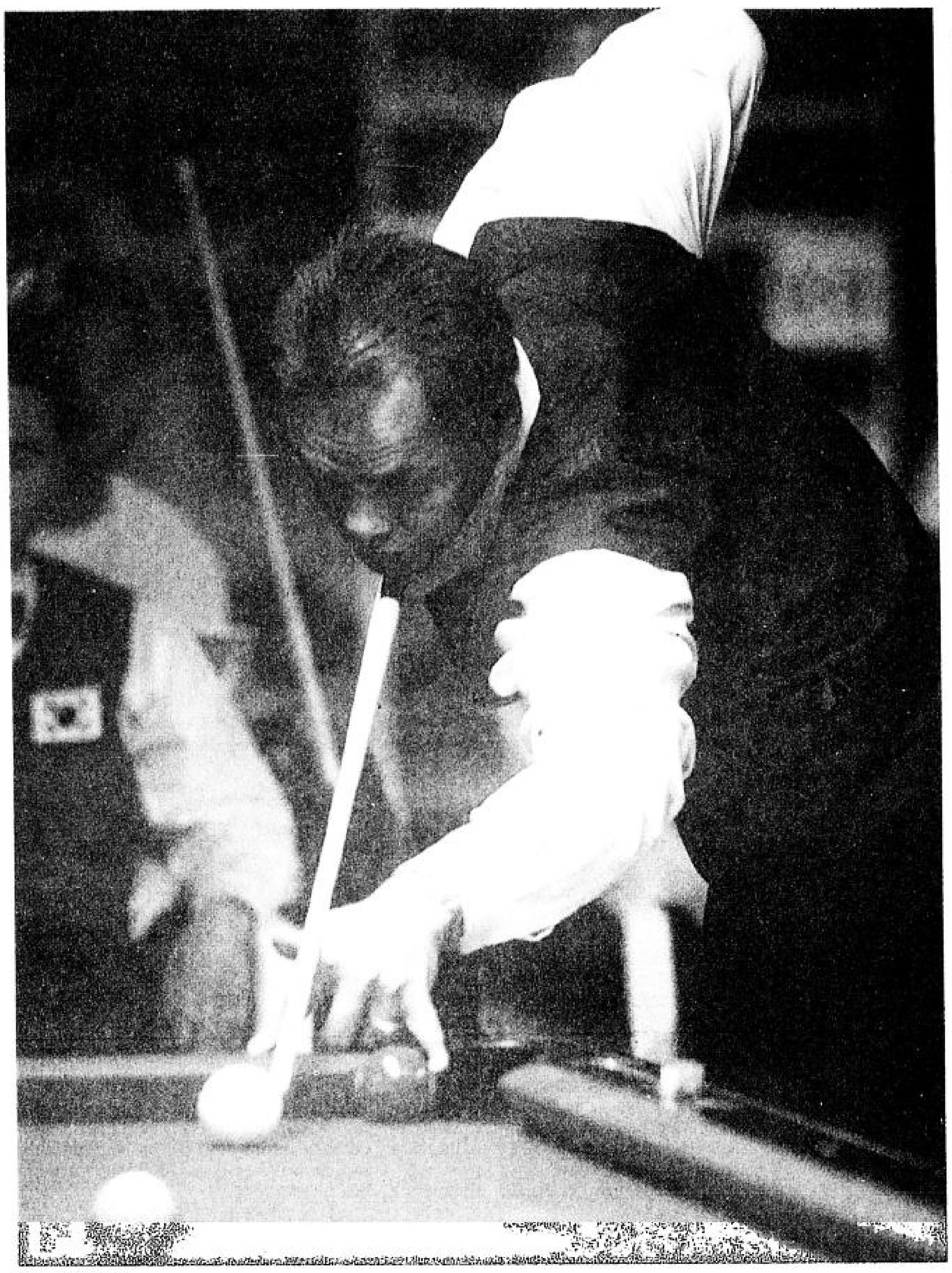
(Korea time 1 hr, ahead of RP time)

Athletics 11 a.m.—E Candelario, 400m run (semifinal depending on 1st rd results)
3 p.m.—J. Lozada, 800m run (semifinal, depending on 1st rd results)
Archery 9 a.m. to 12 noon—Olympic round, women's individual (1/32, 1/16, 1/8, depending on scores in previous rounds)
2 to 5 p.m.—Women's Individual (qrtrfinal, semifinal, 3rd-4th, 1st-2nd, depending on scores in previous rounds)
Baseball 2 p.m.—No. 1 vs No.4 (semifinal, depending on RP team results in previous matches)
6 p.m.—No. 2 vs No.3 (semifinal, depending on RP team results in previous matches)
Basketball 7 p.m.—Quarterfinal round (depending on RP team results in prelim)
Bowling 1 to 3:30 p.m.—men, women (first 8-game block)
Boxing 2 p.m.—All events (qtrfinal, no draw yet)
Cycling 10 to 10.10 a.m.—B. Dimacali, keirin (1/2 final, depending on results in previous rounds)
10:40 to 11:40 a.m.—P. Curtan Jr., V. Espiritu, Madison (1/2 final)
11:40 to 11:50 a.m.—Keirin (7th-12th)
1:40 to 1:50 p.m.—B. Dimacali, sprint (3rd-4th, 1st-2nd, finals, 1st depending on results in previous rounds)
2:10 to 2:20 p.m.— Sprint (3rd-4th, 1st-2nd, finals, 2nd)
2:40 to 2:50 p.m — Sprint (3rd-4th, 1st-2nd, finals, 3rd)
Diving 7 p.m.—J. Asok, R. Fabriga, 10m synchronized diving (finals)
Sailing 11 a.m.—R. Balladares, R. Chavez, J. Villena, L. Taroja, men/women, all classes (9th, 10th races)
Shooting 9 a.m.—N. Padilla, 25m standard pistol
Table Tennis 3:30 p.m.—C. Abas, women's singles (prelim, 8th, qrtrfinal)
Wrestling 10 a.m. to 12 noon—J. Angana, 50kg freesytle, M. Basas, 74 kg freestyle; M. Valda, 96 kg freesytle (prelim, 3rd round, classification round, semifinal)
4 to 5:40 p.m.—60 kg freestyle (3rd-4th, finals), 74kg freestyle (3rd-4th, finals), 96kg freestyle (3rd-4th, finals),



GOLDEN DUO
Django Bustamante (above) aims for his shot during the 9-ball doubles competitions. "I dedicate this victory to the Filipino people," Bustamante said in a telephone call to Puyat Sports President Aristeo "Putch" Puyat yesterday after he and Antonio Lining (below) won the gold medal. From Busan, Bustamante will fly to Baltimore to play in the Sudden Death 7-Ball on Oct. 9. Then he and Efren "Bata" Reyes will proceed to England to see action in the World Pool Master on Oct. 18-20 before returning home.
JESS YUSON

Paradorn makes Asiad debut, teams up with brod to prevail

Tennis

BUSAN, South Korea—Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan, fresh off a victory over top-ranked Lleyton Hewitt, made his Asian Games tennis debut here Monday in men's doubles with a victory alongside his brother Narathorn.

Paradorn and Narathorn beat Macau's Lei Hou-in and Kuan Chu-shek, 6-0, 6-0, in a first-round men's doubles match. The Thai duo next face the third-seeded Japanese duo of Goichi Motomura and Thomas Shimada.

Paradorn, ranked 31st on the ATP Tour, is the top seed in men's singles and will begin his quest for that gold medal Tuesday against Kyrgyzstan's Eduard Koifman with Tajikistan's Sergei Makashin awaiting in the third round.

Paradorn topped Aussie star Hewitt in the quarter-finals of the ATP Japan Open but lost in the semi-finals. His breakout year has also included his first ATP title, in August on Long Island, and a win over Andre Agassi at Wimbledon.

Women's singles top seed Tamarine opened in mixed doubles, joining Vittaya Samrej in a 6-1, 6-0 first-round triumph over Mongolia's Baatar Oyunbold and Khishigtagtokh Khandsuren.

Up next for the Thai duo are seventh-seeded Ivanna Isroilova and Dmitry Tomashevich of Uzbekistan.

Men's doubles top seeds Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi, who split six months ago but have reunited in hopes of bringing India gold, opened with a 6-0, 6-1 second-round victory over Pakistan's Rashid Malik and Aqeel Khan.

The three-time Grand Slam men's doubles champions advanced to Wednesday's quarter-finals. *AFP*

Bata's turn to have jinx in A. Games

REYES

BUSAN, South Korea—With bowler Paeng Nepomuceno ending his Asian Games jinx here, it's Bata Reyes' turn to grapple with that "disease."

Heavily favored to win here, Bata lost both his assignments in the 8-ball singles and 3-cushion carom.

He was not actually tipped to win the 3-cushion carom. It is in the 8-ball singles that high hopes had been pinned on his shoulders.

But all Bata could produce was a bronze medal in the 8-ball singles. He reached the quarters of the 3-cushion carom.

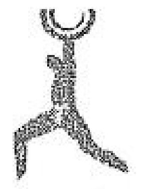
Before Nepomuceno broke his own jinx and won the men's doubles with RJ Bautista on Friday night, his best finish was a silver in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad.

Bata, the 1999 world champion and known internationally as billiards' Mr. Magician, will have to wait four more years before he could avenge his defeats.

But by the time the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, comes along, Bata would be 52 already. *ASM*

5 world marks fall; Chinese makes history

BUSAN, South Korea—Five world records were shattered at the Asian Games here Monday as Chinese weightlifter Sun Ruiping hoisted herself into history with a logic-defying display.


Weightlifting

Barely 24 hours after compatriot Liu Chunhong had set three world records in the 69kg class, Sun confirmed China's status as weightlifting's superpower with an extraordinary performance in the women's 75kg class.

Sun was challenged briefly when Tatyana Khromova of Kazakhstan set a new world record of 118kg in the snatch section of the event. But Sun responded immediately with a lift of 118.5kg to set a new best.

The Chinese woman then obliterated the existing record of 143kg for clean and jerk. She lifted 145kg and then raised the bar weight by an astonishing 7.5kg to set another record, 152.5kg.

Her combined total of 271kg was also a massive leap forward from the previous overall best of 257.5kg.

Sun and Khromova's duel brought to 12 the number of weightlifting world records that have been set at the games, and overshadowed the opening track and field events on day nine of the Asiad. *AFP*

28-year wait over for Japan

BUSAN, South Korea—Japan won its first Asian Games men's team tennis gold medal since 1974 here on Monday when it crushed defending champions South Korea 2-0 in the best-of-three-final.

Unheralded duo Michihisa Onoda and Takahiro Terachi stunned the home fans as Japan avenged its final defeat at the hands of the same opponents at the last Games in Bangkok in 1998.

After Onoda had seen off Yoon Yong-Il, it was left to Terachi to finish the job beating leading Korean player Lee Hyun-Taik 6-4, 6-2 to continue Japan's recent stranglehold over Korea.

Back in February, they had defeated their old rivals in the Davis Cup for the first time in 19 years, a result that meant Korea were forced into a relegation scrap to preserve their Asian zone group one status.

"I knew I had to play a lot better because the last time I met Lee he beat me 6-1, 6-2," said Terachi looking back on his Asian Championships mismatch last December.

"I caused him plenty of problems today. I made sure I kept putting the ball in play and he made a lot of mistakes.

"It was important for me not to lose today because of what happened in 1998 and to beat the same team here on their home ground is just fantastic," added Terachi, whose world ranking is a humble 320 compared to Lee's 82.

Onoda got Japan off to a flying start with a quickfire demolition of Yoon Yong-Il, winning the opening rubber 6-1, 6-3 to continue his impressive run of form at the tournament.

In the semi-finals, the 24-year-old had saved a match point against top seeds Uzbekistan and despite going down a break early in the second set on Monday, he was never really troubled by an erratic Yoon. *AFP*

OAKLAND A'S OUT

Twins on verge of WS appearance

OAKLAND, California—The Minnesota Twins, on the verge of elimination from baseball altogether 11 months ago, now find themselves on the verge of a World Series appearance.

Brad Radke tossed 6 2/3 superb innings and closer Eddie Guardado survived a wild ninth as the Twins stunned the Oakland Athletics 5-4 in Game Five of their American League Division Series on Sunday.

The Twins, the target of contraction talks this offseason, advanced to the League Championship Series. They will host the Anaheim Angels in Game One of the best-of-seven series on Tuesday.

Strong team

"In the offseason when (the contraction discussion) happened we were kind of down about it, but we stayed strong, and it's a strong baseball team," Radke said. "We don't really think about that.

"I don't want to say it's destiny, but we just have to go out there and play our game. We just have to take this game and go on into Tuesday and just play our game, pitch our game and just play our defense." Playing in one of the game's smallest markets and fielding a team with one of the league's lowest payrolls, the Twins cruised to the AL Central Division title but were heavy underdogs against the A's, who were making their third postseason appearance in as many years.

After splitting the first two games in Oakland, the A's won Game Three in Minnesota but for the third time in as many Division Series appearances failed to close the deal.

Minnesota routed Oakland on Saturday and, despite the short turnaround, managed to do just enough to get by Sunday–and Radke was the key.

After winning Game One, Radke (2-0) came through in the biggest outing of his eight-year career. The 29-year-old righthander allowed five singles and a homer. He did not walk a batter and struck out four.

"Brad started out good and finished up good," Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said. "He has been our man for a long time here. And he did it again today. He picked up our baseball team again and it was vintage Brad Radke, used all his pitches, got us through the seventh inning, and it was pretty good." J.C. Romero tossed a scoreless inning and LaTroy Hawkins got the final out in eighth. With the Twins clinging to a 2-1 lead heading into the ninth, Pierzynski gave closer Guardado some breathing room with a two-run homer off Billy Koch.

David Ortiz added a two-out, run-scoring double off Koch that seemed insignificant at the time but proved crucial.

Guardado inherited a 5-1 lead to start the bottom of the ninth but gave up a leadoff single to Eric Chavez and a one-out double to David Justice. Mark Ellis then lined a homer to left that got Oakland within 5-4.

Guardado retired Terrence Long on a flyout but Randy Velarde blooped a single into right field, bringing the go-ahead run to the plate. Guardado fell behind Ray Durham but got the A's designated hitter to foulout to second baseman Denny Hocking.

When Hocking hauled in Durham's popup, the Twins mobbed Guardado at the mound. Making its first postseason appearance since 1991, Minnesota improved to 7-3 in elimination games.

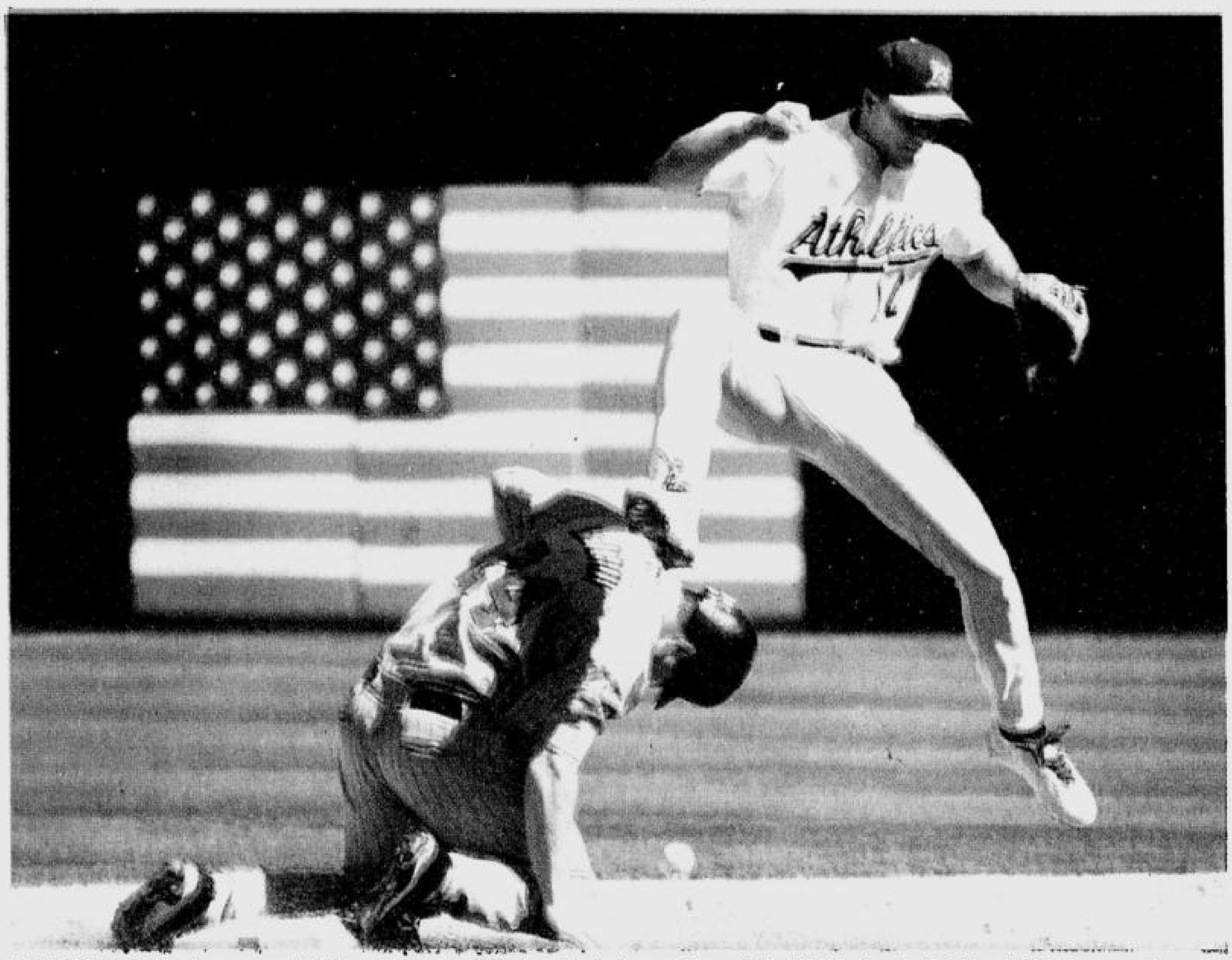
"I was torn whether I should go get him," Gardenhire said of Guardado. "He has been our guy all year long, and you get to that situation, should you go get him? This is about winning, and I left him out there, I said, 'He has got to get Durham out.'"

Most wins

The A's finished tied for the most wins in baseball but lost in Game Five for the third straight year. They fell to 2-8 in elimination games.

The Twins were aggressive early but it cost them. Cristian Guzman doubled with one out in the first but easily was thrown out trying to stretch the hit into a triple.

Oakland got a leadoff single from Durham in the bottom of the first. *AFP*



MINNESOTA Twins baserunner Matthew LeCroy (left) is forced out at second base in the third inning, but Oakland Athletics second baseman Mark Ellis is unable to complete the double play, during Game Five of the American League Division Series. REUTERS

Giants battle back, tie series

SAN FRANCISCO—Livan Hernandez boasted about his postseason perfection, then went out and backed it up.

Hernandez won again in October and the San Francisco Giants battered Tom Glavine for the second time to beat the Atlanta Braves 8-3 Sunday and even their NL division series at 2-2.

"I tried not to put pressure on," Hernandez said. "I knew it was a big game. I do it the same as I do every day. I came into the park and batting practice relaxed, my mind relaxed. I did not want to make a lot of mistakes ... and I won again today."

Barry Bonds drove in the first run and the Giants led all the way, sending both teams back to Atlanta for a decisive Game 5 on Monday night. Buses to carry the clubs to the airport for cross-country flights were lined up before it ended.

Kevin Millwood, already waiting at home in Atlanta, will pitch for the Braves on three days' rest against a fully rested Russ Ortiz.

Handed a 7-0 lead, Hernandez –the 1997 National League Championship Series and World Series Most Valuable Player–improved to 6-0 in the postseason. Even after a disappointing record of 12-16 in the regular season, he was confident before his first outing of this series.

"I never lose in October," he said.

At least one team in the neighborhood is still alive. After the Oakland Athletics were eliminated by Minnesota in the AL division series across San Francisco Bay, Hernandez gave fans plenty to cheer about.

The wild-card Giants won for the first time in six tries when facing postseason elimination since the 1971 NL championship series.

Hernandez carried a no-hit bid into the fifth, but Vinny Castilla hit a high popup that dropped between Hernandez, third baseman David Bell and shortstop Rich Aurilia for a single.

Bell charged in too far and the ball fell behind him. *AP*

Marienbard gives Dettori 3rd Arc de Triomphe win

ITALIAN jockey Lanfranco Dettori riding Marienbard reacts after he won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. AP

PARIS—Italian jockey Frankie Dettori landed his third Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on Sunday but his mount Marienbard had to beat two Derby winners to capture Europe's most prestigious prize.

Dettori punched the air in pure delight after passing the post just three quarters of a length ahead of French Derby winner Sulamani.

The race-rusty Epsom and Irish Derby winner High Chaparral was half a length back in third.

Marienbard was a 10-1 chance in London betting with Sulamani at 2-1 and High Chaparral at 7-4 favourite.

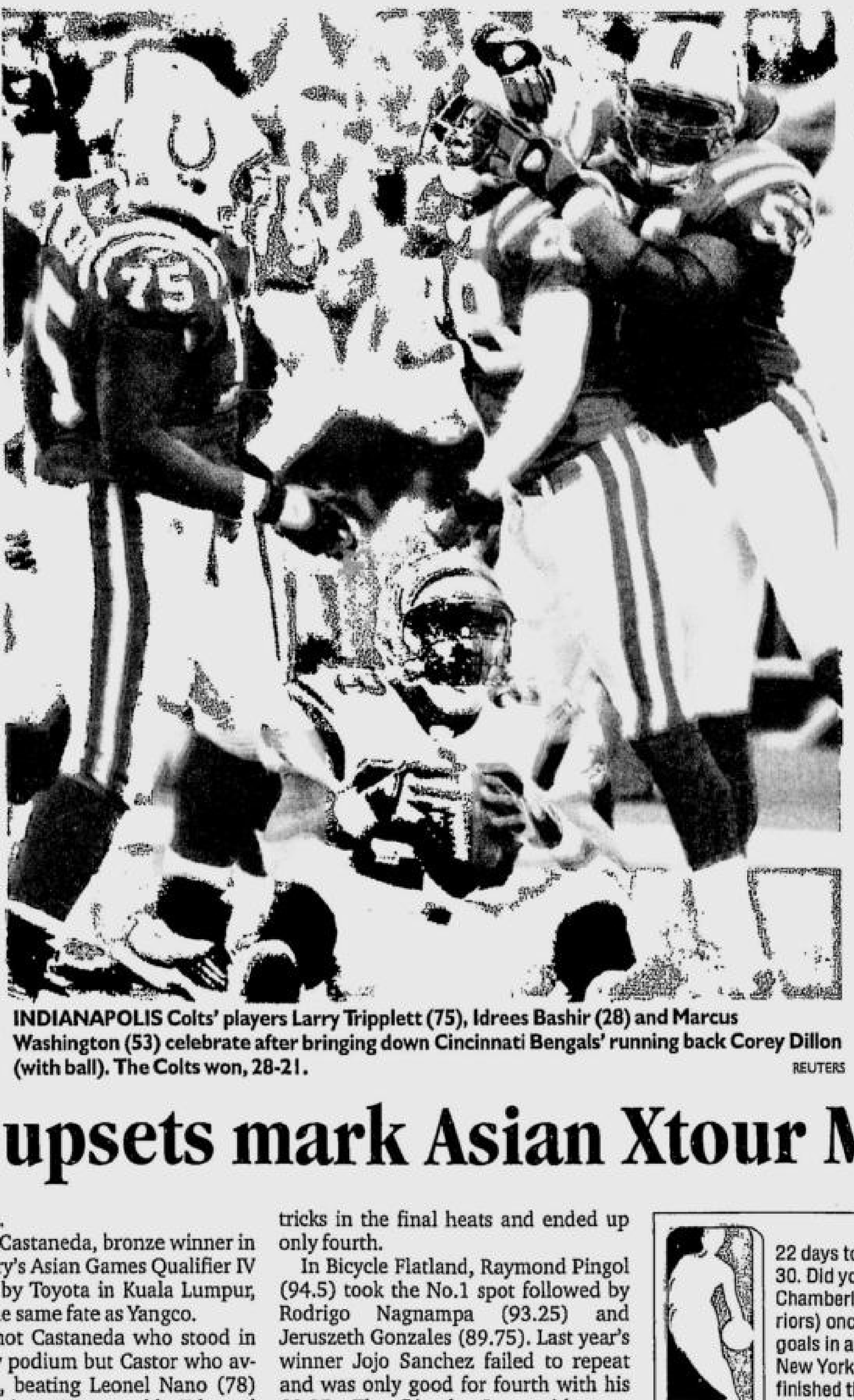
"To win it back-to-back is an amazing feeling," said Dettori who had won the Parisian showcase last year with breathtaking ease on Sakhee. He landed his first Arc in 1995 on Lammtarra.

Blowing kisses to 40,000 adoring fans at the city's premier track of Longchamp, Dettori leapt from the saddle with his traditional flying dismount and said: "You could cut the atmosphere with a knife here.

"It is a real privilege to ride in the Arc, let alone win it." Yelling and whooping with joy, he shouted: "Give me the trophy, give me the champagne" before embarking on a carriage ride lap of honour in front of the packed grandstand on a sunny autumn afternoon.

For the 31-year-old Dettori, this was a victory to savour and to treasure.

Two years ago he narrowly escaped death in a Newmarket plane crash that killed the pilot. *AFP*



INDIANAPOLIS Colts' players Larry Tripplett (75), Idrees Bashir (28) and Marcus Washington (53) celebrate after bringing down Cincinnati Bengals' running back Corey Dillon (with ball). The Colts won, 28-21. REUTERS

Raiders remain unbeaten

ORCHARD PARK, New York—Rookie Phillip Buchanon returned an interception by Drew Bledsoe 81 yards with just over eight minutes left Sunday as the Oakland Raiders defeated the Buffalo Bills 49-31 to remain the NFL's only unbeaten team.

Oakland improved to 4-0 for the sixth time in franchise history and first time since 1990, and the Raiders later became the only team with an unblemished record when the San Diego Chargers were routed in Denver, falling to 4-1.

With the Raiders clinging to a 35-31 lead, Buchanon stepped in front of Bledsoe's pass toward Peerless Price and ran it back untouched up the left sideline. Buchanon had let a pass slip through his hands on the previous play. *AP*

Newcomers steal show as upsets mark Asian Xtour Manila

By Jong Arcano

THE NEW kids on the block stole the show in the action-filled Asian Xtour Manila presented by Toyota as Noel Casinas and June Castor upstaged the hot favorites by winning their respective events at the Bonifacio Global City over the weekend.

A sellout, record crowd of about 23,000 who came to witness the various exciting events watched Casinas rise above the tough competition to win the gold in the Aggressive Inline Skate and Castor emerge the surprise winner of the Main X Skateboard.

As last year's champion Rogelio Yangco could only land in fourth place, Casinas grabbed the limelight with a winning score of 86.75. William Dan Bolado was a far second with his 77.75 and Glenford Hermosa third with his inferior 74.

Anselm Castaneda, bronze winner in last January's Asian Games Qualifier IV presented by Toyota in Kuala Lumpur, suffered the same fate as Yangco.

It was not Castaneda who stood in the victory podium but Castor who averaged 85, beating Leonel Nano (78) and debuting 15-year-old Edmund Chua.

Castaneda failed to complete his tricks in the final heats and ended up only fourth.

In Bicycle Flatland, Raymond Pingol (94.5) took the No.1 spot followed by Rodrigo Nagnampa (93.25) and Jeruszeth Gonzales (89.75). Last year's winner Jojo Sanchez failed to repeat and was only good for fourth with his 89.25. The Bicycle Stunt title was snatched by Jorge Baquir over defending titlist Mark Shultz.

22 days to NBA opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that Wilt Chamberlain (Philadelphia Warriors) once had a record 22 field goals in a single half against New York on March 2, 1962? He finished the game with 36 field goals and a record 100 points.

ASIAD ROUNDUP

Chinese weightlifter, Kazakh walker shine

By Phil Brown
AP Writer

BUSAN, South Korea—A Chinese woman gave the Asian Games its seventh day of weightlifting world records Monday, and Kazakhstan's Valeriy Borissov walked 20 kilometers for a three-second victory.

While Borissov's victory opened the games' track and field competition, South Korea swept five gold medals in a regional version of tennis and added two in shooting and one each in cycling and athletics.

The games also had their first case of an athlete facing loss of a medal over doping violations. Lebanese bodybuilder Yousseff el-Zetn, bronze medalist in the over-90-kilogram division, did not take a mandatory drug test, and the decision to take away his medal will be just a formality, officials said.

Weightlifter Sun Ruiping's world records in the snatch, clean and jerk and total in the 75-kilometer division helped China increase its overall gold total to 97. World records now have been broken or tied in seven of the 10 weight divisions contested so far.

Sun, a 21-year-old first-year student at Beijing Sports University, said she had never expected to "embark on this road."

"I was accidentally chosen by a coach for weightlifting when I was very young," she said.

Soft tennis sweep

Chinese also won two golds in shooting and one each in cycling and walking.

South Korea lifted its total to 41 thanks to its sweep of men's and women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles in softball tennis, which has both a different ball and different scoring system than regular tennis.

Japan had 30 after winning gold in five-woman team bowling and men's team tennis, where it beat South Korea in the final.

In the men's 20-kilometer walk, Borissov trailed the leaders until the last kilometer. Pushing ahead, he beat China's Yu Chaohong by three seconds with a time of 1 hour, 24 minutes, 20 seconds.

Then China's Wang Qingqing led a 1-2 Chinese finish in the women's race. She needed 1:33:40 to finish.

In the stadium later, Saudi Arabia won its first gold of the games when Makhld Al-Otaibi surged ahead on the final lap and beat Qatar's Ahmed Ibrahim M.W. Hashim by 1.64 seconds in the men's 10,000 meters.

South Korea's Lee Young-sun won the women's javelin competition, ahead of two Chinese.

India went undefeated through five matches in kabaddi, a south Asian sport resembling team tag, and finished its gold-medal run with a 37-7 victory over Pakistan. Bangladesh, a 55-15 winner over Sri Lanka on Monday, took the silver and Pakistan won the bronze.

In a break in the Chinese monopoly on shooting golds, Turkmenistan won its first of the games when Igor Pirekeev outscored China's Yao Ye 1,266.9 to 1,260.5 in men's 50-meter, three-position rifle competition. China won the team event.

North Korea's Kim Jong Su won the men's 25-meter center-fire pistol shooting, but China again won the team competition.

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

South Korea won the women's team skeet shooting, with Son Hyekyoung taking the individual gold.

Of 38 shooting events so far, China has won 26.

China's cycling gold came when its quartet beat Iran's by 2.355 seconds in the men's 4-kilometer team pursuit.

South Korean Kim Yong-mi won the women's 24-kilometer points race, well ahead of Japan's Ayumu Otsuka.

RP's 2nd gold

The Philippines won its second gold of the games when Francisco Bustamante and Antonio Lining defeated South Korea's Jeong Younghwa and Kim Won-suk 11-9 in 9-ball pool doubles.

Japan's five-woman bowling team outscored South Korea 6,389 to 6,273 for its gold medal.

In the doping violation case, Jang Bo-young, general secretary of the bodybuilding commission for the Asian Games, said el-Zetn left Busan Citizens Hall after winning his medal Sunday without submitting to the required drug test.

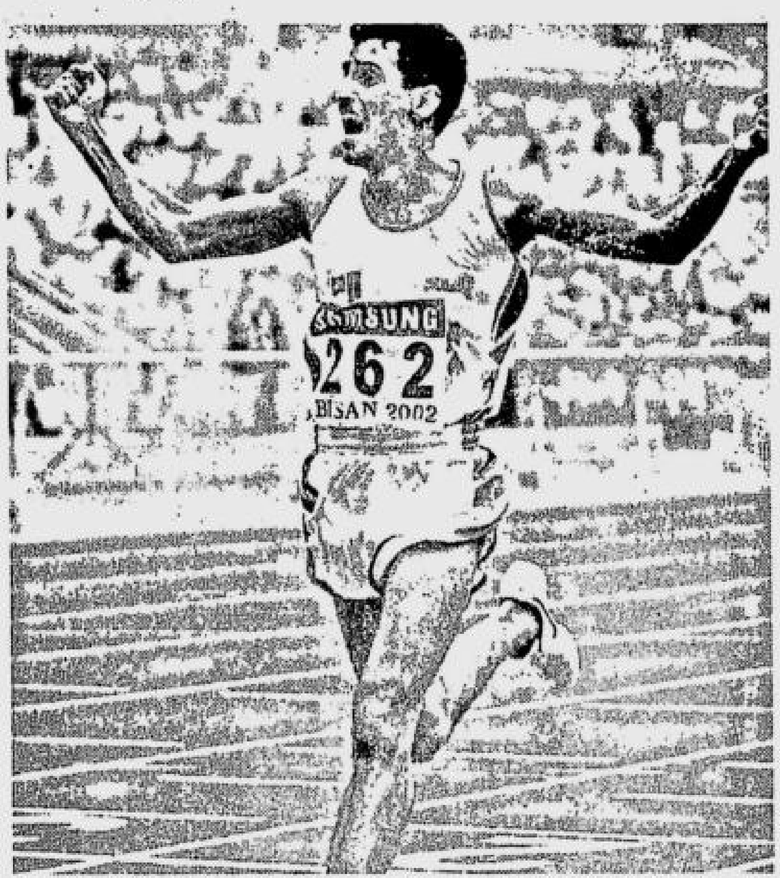
He said the Lebanese team was unable to persuade the athlete to show up for the test by 2 a.m. Monday.

The Asian Bodybuilding Federation met and decided to recommend that el-Zetn be stripped of his medal. It also banned him from competition for two years.

The Olympic Council of Asia was expected to meet to formally take away the medal, and promote a South Korean competitor to third place.

Earlier, Yemeni medal hope Sharaf Al Shaer and two teammates were prevented from competing in bodybuilding for not submitting drug test results before the event.

Three Malaysian sepak takraw players were sent home after results from a test back home showed they had taken morphine, team officials said. *AP*


AL OTAIBI jubilates after winning the men's 10,000m final during the 14th Asian Games in Busan Monday. Al Otaibi won gold with a time of 28 minutes 43.53.
AFP

adidas 14th Asian Games medal tally

ASIAN GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
China	97	44	38	179
South Korea	46	46	52	144
Japan	31	46	38	115
Kazakhstan	19	9	15	34
N. Korea	7	9	10	26
Uzbekistan	7	6	8	21
Chinese Taipei	5	8	18	31
Thailand	5	8	3	16
India	4	3	3	10
Singapore	4	2	3	9
Hong Kong	3	4	6	13
Malaysia	2	4	3	9
Philippines	2	3	6	11
Vietnam	2	2	3	7
Iran	1	6	10	17
Indonesia	1	5	5	11
Turkmenistan	1	2	1	4
Bahrain	1	1	2	4
Lebanon	1	0	1	2
Saudi	1	0	0	1
Myanmar	0	3	5	8
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	2	4
United Arab Emirates	0	2	1	3
Mongolia	0	1	10	11
Pakistan	0	1	5	6
Tajikistan	0	1	1	2
Qatar	0	1	1	2
Sri Lanka	0	1	0	1
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Syrian Arab Republic	0	0	1	1
Kuwait	0	0	1	1

*As of 8 p.m.

Paradorn is new poster boy

BUSAN—Asia's sports fans have a new poster boy.

Paradorn Srichaphan, the Thai tennis star who has gained fame with his upsets of top players—including Lleyton Hewitt last week and Andre Agassi at Wimbledon—made his first appearance at the Asian Games on Monday.

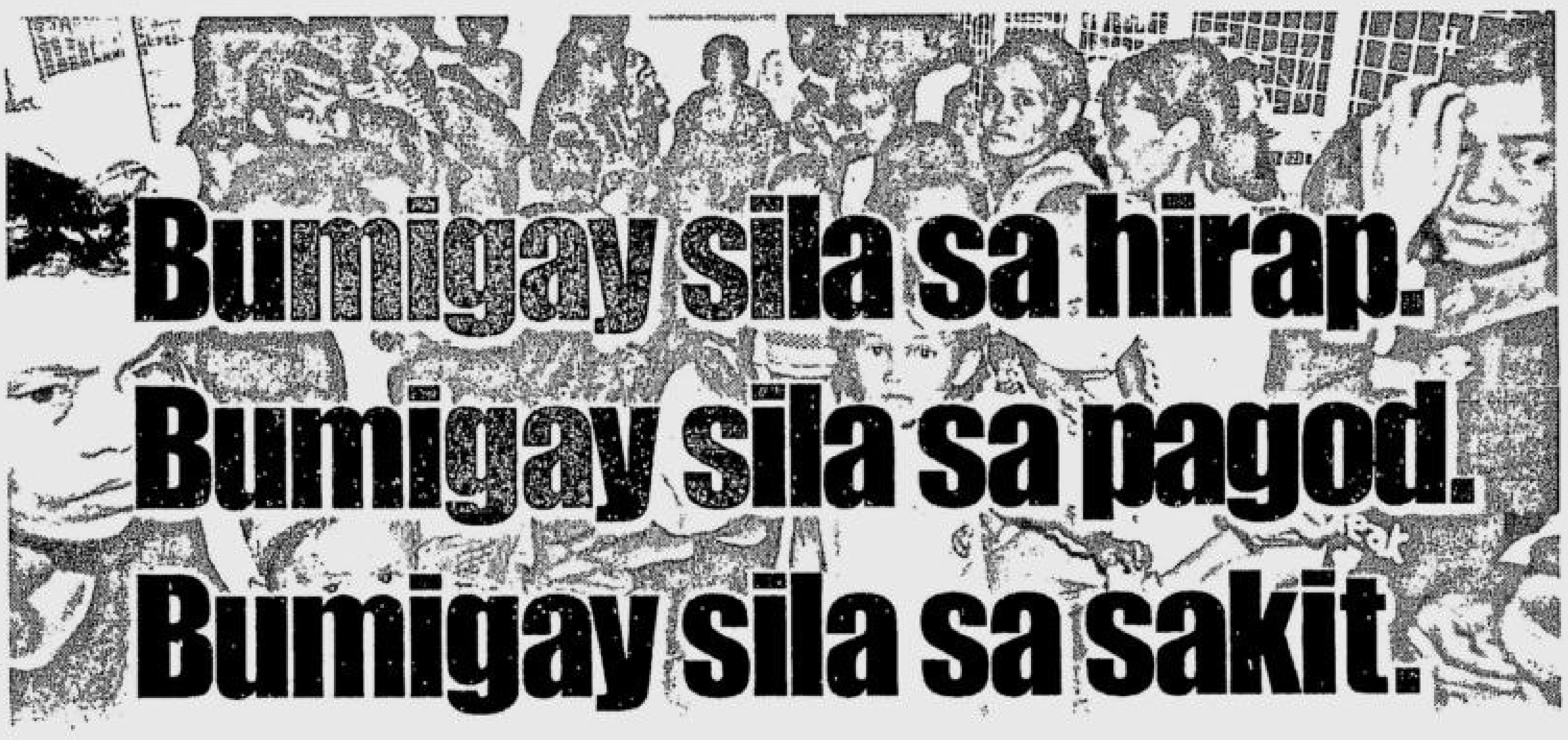
The 23-year-old Bangkok native is the biggest international star to take part in the Asian Games, which officials say has not only raised the profile of the event but will also boost tennis in Asia.

Paradorn will play his first singles match Tuesday against Eduard Koifman of Kazakhstan. *AP*

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

Baseball:Major League Baseball Division Series (L);03:00:00;08-Oct-02;11:00
Extreme Sports: X-Games The Asian Xtour Presented By Toyota Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA Event Highlights(R); 00:30:00;08-Oct-02;11:30
Football: Nfl Blast (T); 00:30:00; 08-Oct-02;12:00;
English Premier League Highlights 2002/03 (T) 01:00:00.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Bigyan natin ng kahit kaunting ginhawa ang ating mga kababayan na pinalayas sa Sabah, Malaysia. Hirap, pagod at sakit pa rin ang kalaban nila sa mga Holding Centers. Makakatulong tayo. De lata, gamot, damit, tisyu... para mas madali, pera. Matitiis ba natin sila?

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Task Force Members:

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For further inquiries, please call up the Secretariat. Attention: Exec. Coordinator Merlie "Milot" B. Mendoza, c/o Assisi Development Foundation, Inc., Units 503-506 Prestige Tower, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605 Philippines. Tel. Nos.: 632-1001 to 03 DL: 636-5855 FaxNo.: 632-7844. Email: tabang@mindgate.net Website: www.tabangmindanaw.org

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ASIAD BOXING

Igusquiza wins but favored Payla loses

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—Lightweight Anthony Igusquiza avenged a bitter loss suffered by the heavily favored Violito Payla Jr. yesterday with a lopsided victory in the Asian Games boxing competitions here.

But while the 26-year-old Igusquiza won convincingly over his Syrian opponent, the 23-year-old Payla suffered the reverse as Payla's defeat was more a creation of the judges than his opponent from Pakistan.

"Nakakalungkot talaga, sir. *Nanalo na , natalo pa* (It's so frustrating, sir. I lost a won fight," said Payla, whose setback left only four of the eight Filipino boxers in the 16-day Games.

More frustrating was the fact that before the setback, Payla was touted to score a breeze over Nouman Karim, an untested flyweight who hardly connected a solid punch but still got away with an 18-13 decision.

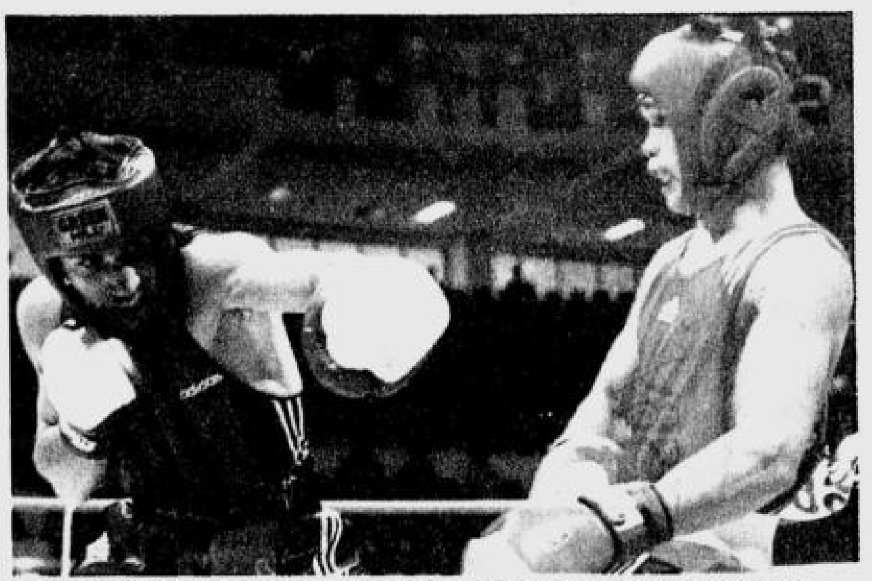
But Payla overlooked the fact that the president of the World Boxing Federation is Anwar Chowdry, who is from Pakistan and is generally regarded as The Godfather of world amateur boxing; referees and judges bow at his feet.

"It's hard to accept this defeat," said Liberato Reyna Jr., team manager of boxing. "Even if the Pakistani fighter wasn't connecting, the judges were giving him points. What happened to Camat (Christopher) also happened to Payla today."

Camat also lost to a Pakistani some days ago, also because of suspect judging.

"It's useless filing a protest," said Reyna, a lawyer. "We might incur Chowdry's ire all the more."

It was obvious from the start that Payla had no chance against the Pakistani as the points kept ticking away unreasonably like a taxi meter in favor of Karim in the first two rounds.



IGUSQUIZA (right) eludes a punch from Hamidi during their preliminary bout. AFP

Despite Payla's solid punches that wobbled the Pakistani twice in the third round and backed Karim to dangerous grounds in the fourth, the points hardly came the Filipino boxer's way.

It was by far the bitterest setback for the boxing team since Payla came here waving a record of three gold medals won in Cuba in 2001, Azerbaijan and Finland this year plus aside from a silver medal in Poland months before the Asiad.

"Kahit anong gawin ko, ayaw akong iskoran ng mga judges (No matter what I do, the referees kept ignoring it)," said Payla. *"Hindi naman ako tinatamaan pero umiiskor ng puntos ang kalaban* (I was not getting hit but still, my opponent was piling up points)."

In contrast, Igusquiza, from Malinaw, Aklan, and seeing his first Asiad, collected points consistently from Round 1 to Round 4 in registering a 20-14 victory over Hamidi Yousef.

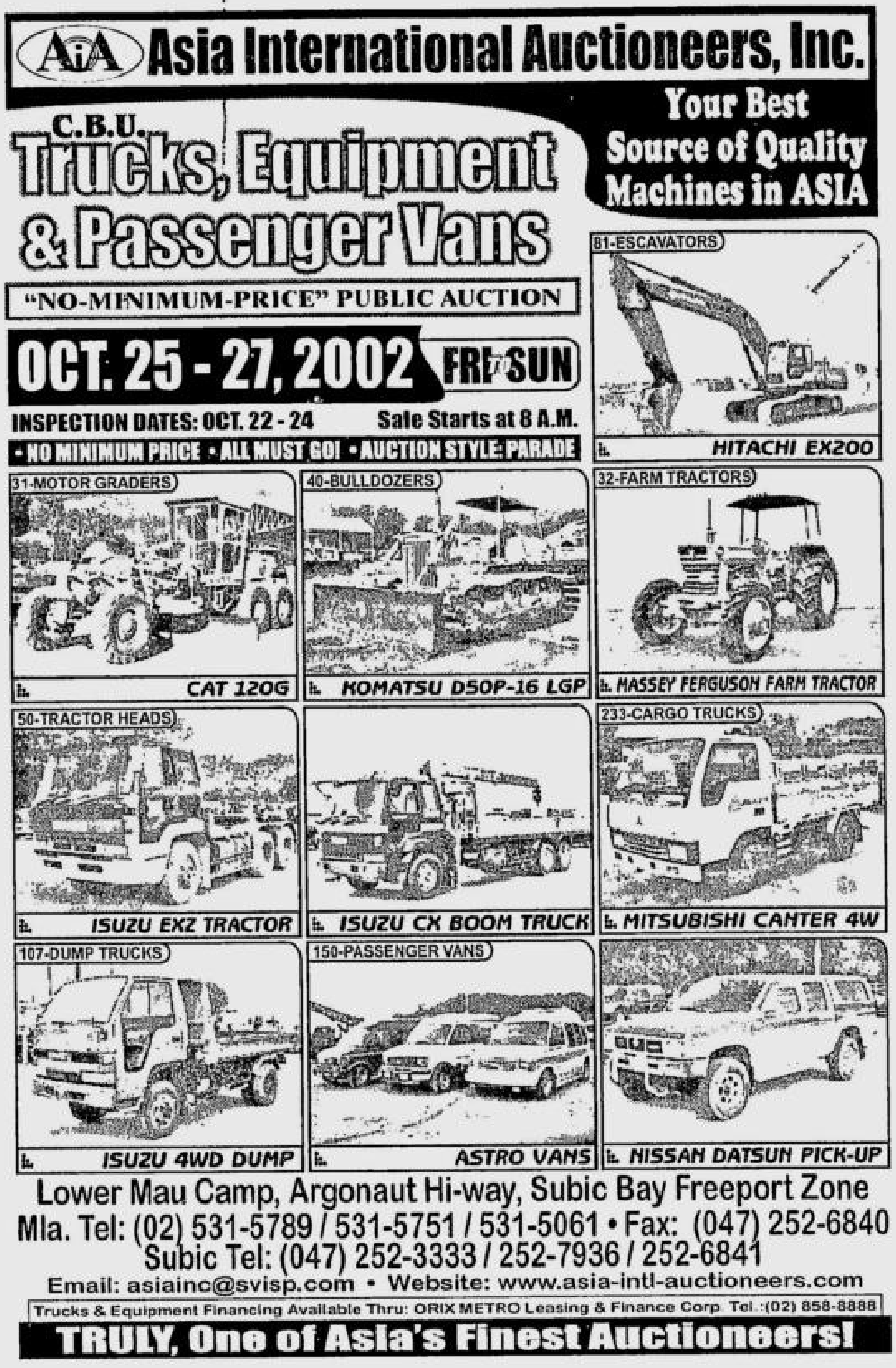
"Madali lang, sir; at pasalamat ako sa ating bansa at sa Poong Maykapal sa panalo kong ito (It was an easy win and I thank our country and God for this)," said Igusquiza, a father of a 4-year-old boy.

Igusquiza, the winner of silver medals this year in Lithuania and North Korea, will gun for the bronze medal tomorrow together with middleweight Maraon Golez.

But before that, lightwelter Romeo Brin and lightfly Harry Tanamor go up against separate opponents today, also seeking bronze medals.

Brin has to watch out though as his opponent today is from Pakistan. Same with Golez tomorrow.

Tanamor battles with an Indian today while Igusquiza's opponent tomorrow is from Uzbekistan.



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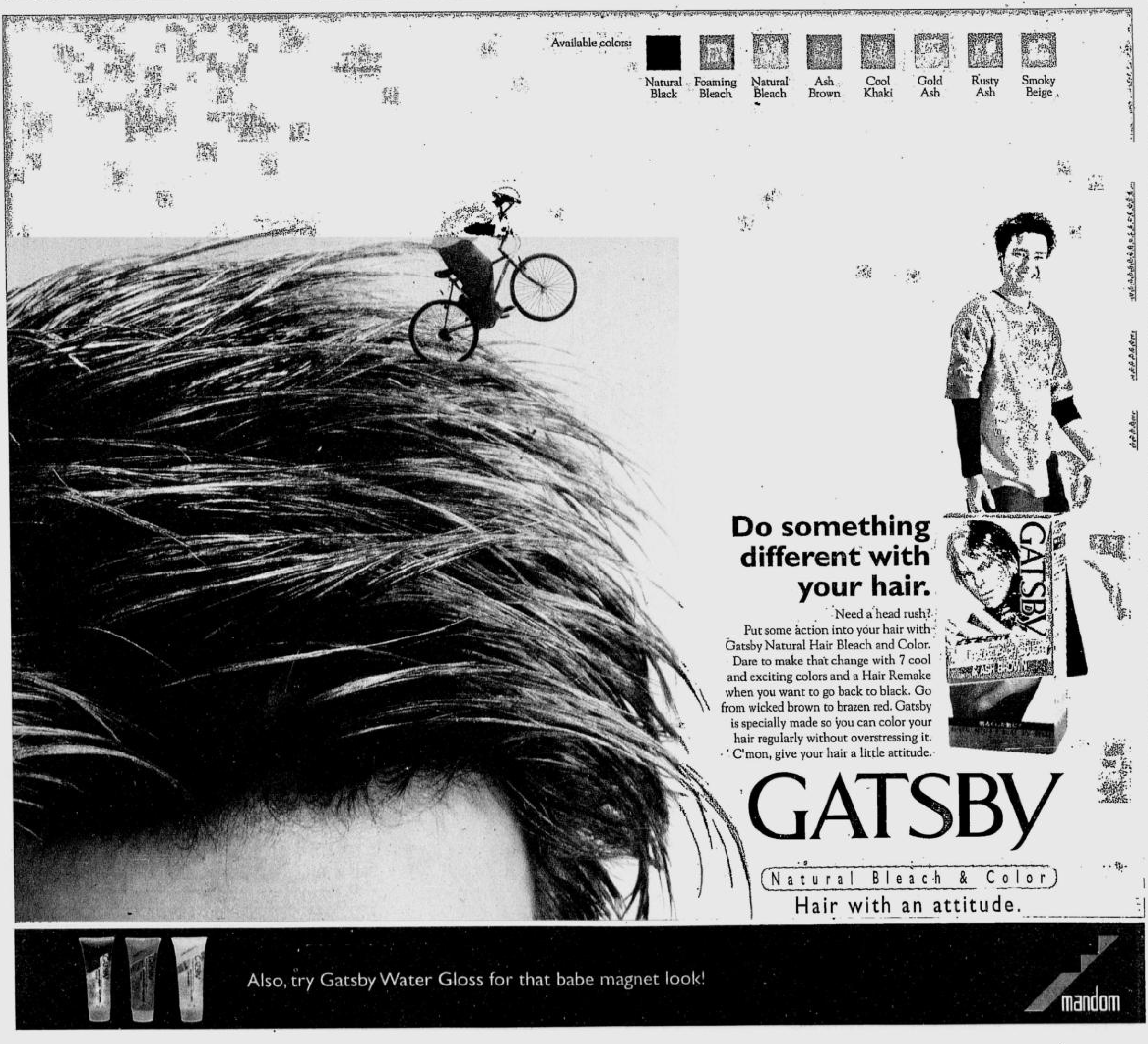

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■ MMDA calls off ride for school kids in Metro /A26

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

■ ON TARGET: Customs chief Bernardo worse than predecessor /A26

MIAA willing to pay property taxes

By Christian V. Esguerra

MARQUEZ

THE MANILA International Airport Authority is ready to pay its tax obligations of P724 million to the Parañaque government, according to MIAA general manager Edgar Manda.

Manda also said yesterday that he has accepted the offer of Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez for them to discuss how the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) would settle its unpaid taxes to the local government.

"Actually, we're ready to pay," Manda told the INQUIRER. "We just want to know if we are indeed bound to pay realty taxes to Parañaque."

He said that they were open to a dialogue with Marquez.

"We're planning to meet with him by next week," he said.

But Manda said that he and other top-level airport officials would present an entirely different agenda when they meet with Marquez.

He said MIAA officials are now retrieving official documents relating to the tax payments made by the past airport administration from 1992 to 1997.

"We want to know the legal basis of these payments, how the tax assessment was made, how the airport's boundaries were established, what title was used."

These payments were one of two crucial arguments made by the Court of Appeals when it junked the MIAA's petition to block the sale of the Naia through public auction for its non-payment of property taxes.

The CA also pointed out that the Local Government Code does not exempt the Naia from paying realty taxes despite its being a government owned and controlled corporation.

In case Parañaque and MIAA fail to reach an agreement in next week's meeting, the airport authority would go to the Supreme Court to petition the CA resolution, Manda said.

Marquez's legal adviser Patricio Asoy had said the local government would proceed with the sale of the airport through public auction.

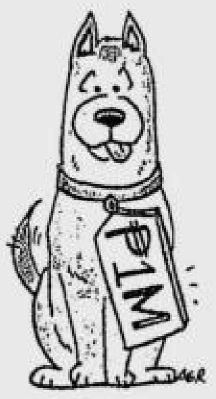
Reward offered for recovery of SWAT K-9 dog

By Tina Santos

THE CALOOCAN City Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) bomb squad has lost one of its members over the weekend.

A reward awaits anybody who would turn in "PO2 Sarah," a trained bomb-sniffing 2-year-old brown Belgian Mallinois, according to her trainer Jojo Rodis.

Sarah is supposedly worth at least P1 million.



Rodis said that Sarah had strayed away from her leash when junior police officers left her unattended between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. last Thursday at the K-9 training center in Bagumbong, Caloocan.

Rodis, a 10-year veteran in K-9 handling, said he left Sarah in the care of three junior police officers who left her briefly to fetch water a few meters away. The gate had been left open and Sarah slipped away, Rodis added.

"Sarah is very intelligent and a trained bomb sniffer," said Rodis, who rents out his dogs to private banks and building owners for at least P45,000 a month.

The Caloocan government is supposedly giving support for the dogs that they use.

"Sarah is loyal to her handler, but she is very tame and would easily go with anybody who would fetch her if her handler is not around," Rodis said.

But he added that she could be very mean if anyone shows signs of hostility against her handler.

Sarah is used in securing populous areas such as malls and the Light Rail Transit stations, Rodis said.

"She is an invaluable member of the force," he said. "Her role is vital in most police operations."

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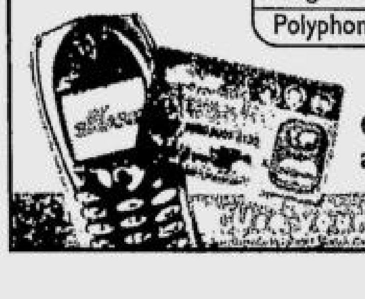

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2 Taiwanese arrested in Bulacan buy-bust

By Alcuin Papa

MEMBERS of the National Capital Region Police Office arrested two Taiwanese men and a Filipino for allegedly trying to sell two kilos of shabu worth P4 million in Bulacan on Sunday.

NCRPO chief Deputy Director Reynaldo Velasco identified the suspects as Jacky Lim, 28, and Robert Tan Cruz, 32, both of Sta. Maria, Bulacan, and Mario Caratao, 38, of Bacolod City, Negros Occidental.

Velasco said a team from the NCRPO's Regional Intelligence and Special Operations Office and the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division under Senior Supt. Gil Meneses and Supt. Miguel Laurel conducted the buy-bust operation in Barangay Parada, Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Velasco said as soon as the suspects handed over two kilos of shabu to an undercover policeman, they were immediately rounded up and placed under arrest.

Velasco said experts have already conducted laboratory tests on the confiscated shabu and certified it to be high-grade.

He pegged the street value of the seized drugs at P4 million.

During the arrest, the policemen also seized a weighing scale, a dark green Mitsubishi Galant (TNT-928), a gray Mitsubishi L-300 (UHT-720), and P10,000 in marked money.

Velasco presented the three suspects yesterday in a press conference in his office in Quezon City.

He said appropriate charges are now being prepared against the three suspects.

DREAM MATCH

Members of the militant group Peace Camp may have something there when they pitted a 'Bush' against 'Saddam' in a mock boxing bout in front of the United States Embassy yesterday, to denounce what they called the United States' aggressive stance toward Iraq (see story on page 1).

ERIK ARAZAS

QC lawmen gun down 'Boy Muslim'

A MAN known only as "Boy Muslim" was killed in a shootout with lawmen in Quezon City Sunday night.

The suspect was tagged in the ambush of Insp. Jacinto Basilio, SPO4 Loreto Basilio and police asset Oliver Calugay, earlier that day.

According to a police report, the lawmen were wounded in an ambush at around 1:20 p.m. Sunday, when they went to check a report that rival gangs were clashing in Payatas.

Witnesses said the policemen's jeep (URF-279) were fired upon by men clad in "malong."

The two Basilios are now recovering at the Chinese General Hospital, police said.

About 10 p.m. that night, patrolling policemen spotted "Boy Muslim" talking to four other men in an alley near the Philippine Children's Medical Center on Quezon Avenue. The suspects opened fire as soon as they saw the lawmen, police said. The policemen returned fire and killed "Boy Muslim."

Policemen said that a local gang warned them not to put up a police detachment in Payatas. The area is said to be a distribution point for illegal drugs.

Alcuin Papa

MMDA calls off ride for school kids in Metro

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE METRO Manila Development Authority's October 14 trial run for the Drop-and-Ride project was postponed again after parents informed the agency that their children will have irregular schedules next week because of the forthcoming final exams and semestral break.

"Probably, the project will begin by the first week of November," said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel De Dios.

He also said yesterday that the project was also postponed pending the selection of pickup and drop off points in different areas in Metro Manila.

Vergel De Dios said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando will again meet with parents to discuss more details of the plan.

Initially, shopping mall parking lots have been proposed as pickup points for the students, but while there will be no problem in the mornings, the parking lots will be too crowded in the afternoons, said Vergel De Dios.

He said among the pick-up points being considered are the Neopolitan Subdivision in Quezon City, the Shell Gas station on C-5, the Marikina City Hall, and the area near the green gate of the Araneta Coliseum.

The traffic director said the project will first be tried on students of the Ateneo de Manila University in Katipunan, Quezon City, before they implement it on other schools.

The Drop and Ride project aims to minimize the amount of vehicles that ferry students to school in order to ease traffic congestion in school zones. Under the plan, students will be dropped off at certain terminals at a specified time where they will board point-to-point buses going directly to their schools.

Parents have earlier voiced fears that students riding the buses will be prone to kidnapping.

But Fernando said not everyone is at risk, and that the children enjoy "safety in numbers" aboard the buses.

Cops shoot it out during Holy Rosary feast; 1 dead

By Philip Tubeza

THE CELEBRATION of the Feast of the Holy Rosary in Manila on Sunday turned into a bloody affair when a policeman shot and killed a fellow lawman by mistake.

PO2 Victor Yumol, 29, of Miguelin Street, Sampaloc, was killed in a gunfight with PO1 Emmanuel Ponce, 32, of San Diego Street, also in Sampaloc, said Detective Alfredo Salazar, of the Western Police District's homicide section.

Salazar said the shooting incident happened at around 7:15 p.m. Sunday near the suspect's house.

Salazar learned that minutes before the incident, Ponce, a member of the national police's Special Action Force, allegedly got into an argument with the Yumol's brother Henry and several men.

"There was a disturbance and people even threw bottles," Salazar said.

Luckily, cooler heads were able to pacify the two groups, he said.

The victim, who was armed, reportedly went out of his house to check on what was happening.

Yumol, assigned with the Malate police, did not know that the suspect was hiding behind the gate of his house and was still angry at Henry, Salazar said.

Ponce shot Yumol as soon as the suspect saw him, Salazar added.

The victim was caught unaware as a bullet hit his left side, Salazar said.

Bystanders took the victim to the University of Santo Tomas hospital, but he died despite doctors' efforts to save him, police said.

"The suspect hid inside his house and would not come out," Salazar said. "There was some tension after Sampaloc policemen arrived. They had to wait for an hour before Ponce eventually surrendered."

The suspect is now detained at the Western Police District headquarters as police prepare murder charges against him.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 8, 2002
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Gal 1:13-24**
Gospel: **Lk 10:38-42**

Jesus entered a village and a woman called Martha welcomed him to her house. She had a sister named Mary who sat down at the Lord's feet to listen to his words. Martha, meanwhile, was busy with all the serving and finally she said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the serving?"

But the Lord answered, "Martha, Martha, you worry and are troubled about many things, whereas only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken away from her."

Commentary

Like yesterday's Gospel passage, that of today is distinctively Lucan. Both women were doing a particular trait of basic Oriental, nay of human, hospitality. When a guest enters one's household, the host sees to it that someone entertains the guest with conversation while one prepares something to serve. Both are doing the ministry of hospitality. One or the other may not arrogate to oneself the prerogative of being hospitable. Both were truly serving in their own way. But Mary is presented here more than simply doing the service of hospitality to Jesus. She sits at the feet of the Master like disciples attentively listening to his magisterial instructions. Jesus is not only ministered to by the sisters but is in the act of ministering the word to an attentive listener. This is the first duty of our ministry (diakonia). We let the Master minister to us with his life-giving word, which in due time bears fruit in our manifold ministries. Sometimes we have a mania to do all kinds of services. We claim to do the works of God. But we fail to let the God of work serve us in the silence of our hearts and lives. We lose the right sense of priorities, forgetting that we are simply ministers of the word and not masters of it. Is the Lord truly the portion of our life and ministry?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (ELECTORAL LAW)—Residency as one of the qualifications for an elective local official—Section 39 of the Local Government Code (Rep. Act No. 7160) provides for the qualifications for an elective local official. The decisions of the Supreme Court have applied certain tests and concepts in resolving the issue of whether or not a candidate has complied with the residency requirement for elective positions. The principle of animus revertendi has been used to determine whether a candidate has an "intention to return" to the place where he seeks to be elected. Corollary to this is a determination whether there has been an "abandonment" of his former residence which signifies an intention to depart therefrom. The record shows that when petitioner and his wife got married, they resided in Tangcal, Tubaran. From then on, there was manifest intention on the part of petitioner to reside in Tubaran, which he deemed to be the place of his conjugal abode with his wife. The fact that he and his wife transferred residence from baying to Tubaran shows that petitioner was relinquishing his former place of residence in Bayang and that he intended Tubaran to be his place of domicile. Although petitioner worked as a private secretary of the mayor of Bayang, he went home to Tubaran everyday after work. This is proof of animus manendi. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Mendoza, Papandayan, Jr. v. Commission on Elections, G. R. No. 147909, April 16, 2002]

DIGEST BY **R. B. VERA**

2 robbers die in Valenzuela

TWO MEN who tried to rob a printing press in Malabon City were killed while a 13-year-old girl was wounded in a shootout with policemen in Valenzuela City on Saturday.

Northern Police District Office director Senior Supt. Marcelino Franco identified one of the suspects as Bobby Pagayao. Franco said the dead suspect was one of five men who took the P30,000 payroll of the Speedmaster Printing Press in Potrero, Malabon, around 1 p.m.

Policemen caught up with the suspects in Pulang Lupa, Valenzuela.

Genyby Bergandino, 13, was wounded by a stray shot during the ensuing gunbattle and was taken to the Fatima Medical Center.

Tina Santos

WHO'S WHO

Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos (right) shares the limelight with son, Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, who is named in the "Who's Who in the Philippines" Dangal ng Bayan category. Handing over the trophy to the Mayor is Senator Robert Barbers (left).

Customs chief Bernardo worse than predecessor

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

FORMER Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva was a weak leader. He couldn't discipline his men, and this resulted in virtual anarchy at the Bureau of Customs.

But his replacement, Antonio Bernardo, is just as weak, if not weaker. Bernardo, deputy finance undersecretary before he was appointed to head the second biggest revenue collection agency, cannot control his subordinates either.

But unlike Villanueva, who knew the ins and outs of customs, subordinates seem to be running circles around the youngish-looking Bernardo.

* * *

Bernardo's No. 1 headache is Cebu Customs Collector Billy Bibit who doesn't follow orders from superiors in Manila.

More than two weeks ago, the customs chief ordered Bibit to seize 70 containers of smuggled rice at the Cebu Port. Bibit ignored the order.

Insiders at the Cebu customs said that Bibit had known that the illegal shipment would be arriving because he had earlier met with known rice smugglers.

* * *

"He would violate a gentleman's agreement if he seized the smuggled rice shipment," said a Cebu customs insider.

Moles at the Cebu port tipped off Deputy Commissioner Ray Allas about the arrival of the contraband shipment. Allas, deputy commissioner for intelligence and enforcement, promptly informed Bernardo and recommended a "hold order" on the shipment.

Based on confirmed intelligence reports, Bernardo ordered Bibit to seize the shipment.

* * *

We'll know in the next few days who will blink, Bernardo or Bibit. More likely, it's going to be Bernardo.

Bibit has a history of insubordination. He ignored an order from then Customs Commissioner Villanueva assigning him from the Subic Bay Freeport to the Clark Economic Zone.

Bibit might lose face before people with whom he had an agreement on the contraband shipment, according to Cebu customs insiders, if he seized the smuggled shipment.

* * *

And the last thing in the world that Bibit would want to lose is his face.

Bibit is known to be a tough cookie and he looks every bit like one. He's a member of the rightist Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) that staged several coup attempts against the administration of former President Aquino.

He has with him about 30 RAMboys whom he brought to the Cebu customs office. These people are not organic customs personnel; their pay comes from Bibit's pocket.

* * *

But let's leave Bibit for a while and go back to Bernardo.

Remember the bonded warehouse in Antipolo that was raided by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)? The warehouse contained a smuggled rice shipment worth P300 million.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was there to boost the morale of the NBI raiders.

* * *

Commissioner Bernardo went with the President to watch the seizure by the NBI of the huge smuggled rice shipment.

That news photo of Bernardo with the President at the Antipolo warehouse was a source of big amusement by many customs officials and employees.

"Mon, it was the office of the customs commissioner which ordered the release of the smuggled rice shipment!" said a customs employee. He was laughing while he told me this.

* * *

The P300-million smuggled shipment of premium rice was placed under a "hold order" by Deputy Commissioner Ray Allas in his capacity as deputy for intelligence and enforcement.

Port of Manila Customs Collector Rey Nicolas recommended that the held shipment be released from his port because it was causing congestion.

Nicolas' order was only a ruse to get the smuggled rice out of the Manila port. According to customs sources, the Port of Manila has several empty bonded warehouses that could have accommodated the huge smuggled rice shipment.

* * *

Ben Pinon, Bernardo's chief of staff, reportedly passed on Nicolas' recommendation to the customs chief who promptly approved the request.

Very reliable sources at the customs bureau, who are also well connected with rice smugglers, told me that P10 million changed hands so the huge smuggled rice shipment would be transferred to the Antipolo warehouse.

I am not saying Bernardo or his subordinates received the bribe money. I am only saying that reliable sources at customs were told that that much money was spent by the owner of the smuggled rice shipment.

* * *

But isn't it the height of hypocrisy on the part of Bernardo to be at the raided Antipolo warehouse when it was he who approved the release of the shipment from the Port of Manila?

Why didn't he inform the President it was his idea that the smuggled shipment be transferred to the Antipolo warehouse?

Let's see how Bernardo will answer those questions.

'Drag race' vs road project

By Christian V. Esguerra

MILITANT groups yesterday staged a "kariton (wooden cart) drag race" along the controversial President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City to dramatize their opposition to the road project that is supposedly overpriced by P600 million.

Six urban poor leaders pushed rickety carts and tried to outrace each other along the boulevard before noon yesterday.

The "drag racers" represented Anakbayan, the League of Filipino Students, the National Union of Students of the Philippines, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap, and the Alyansa ng mga Manininda para sa Pagtatanggol ng Karapatan at Kabuhayan.

"These (carts) represent the economic crisis being experienced by the Filipino youth and the urban poor," said Leo Angelo Lanuzo, spokesperson of Anakbayan-National Capital Region.

Lanuzo said Malacañang and Congress should dig deeper into the alleged scam exposed by Sulficio Tagud Jr., a board member of the Public Estates Authority (PEA) which had secured a multimillion-peso loan from the Government Service and Insurance System for the construction of the boulevard.

Anakbayan said President Macapagal-Arroyo should not be shielded from the investigation since the absence of the President's "signature on the paper trail does not mean that she is innocent."

"GMA (is) concealing her mess under her sleeves," Lanuzo said.

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MILITANTS take part in a symbolic race of wooden carts to protest against the Macapagal government's overpriced road project.

ERIK ARAZAS

Munti curfew for minors

MUNTINLUPA Mayor Jaime Fresnedi does not want minors out in the streets of the city in the wee hours.

Starting next Tuesday, authorities will accost young people 17 old years and younger who will be caught in the streets between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m.

Minors who need to go out for emergency reasons and those carrying exemption cards from the Barangay Curfew Hour Enforcement Council will not be covered by the curfew.

Violators will be forced to render community service for two hours on the first offense, four hours on the second offense, and eight hours on the third. They will also be given lectures on the wisdom of the curfew.

On the third offense, the minor will be placed in the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other juvenile institutions.

While admitting that the curfew ordinance may be harsh, Fresnedi said it would help keep children away from vices. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Traffic man held for P10 extort

METRO MANILA Manila Development Authority traffic enforcer Antonio Amistoso was caught in the act of trying to extort P10 from a jeepney driver in Caloocan City on Sunday.

Amistoso, who was believed drunk, was caught by mobile patrol members of Caloocan Police Community Precinct 1 while forcing driver Herminio Tonel, 44, to hand over the money, police said.

PO2 Ronald Iral said Tonel parked his passenger jeepney in front of a Jollibee branch on Edsa about 5 p.m. Sunday and was about to drive away when Amistoso stopped him and tried to extort P10 from him.

The passing policemen saw Amistoso's attempt and brought him to PCP 1 on charges of robbery and extortion, which could cause him his job if he would be found guilty. *Tina Santos*

HENRY TAN'S ESCAPE

7 anti-drug agents charged

By Agnes E. Donato

SEVEN MEMBERS of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) were charged yesterday before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office in connection with the escape of suspected drug lord Henry Tan from his detention cell in Camp Crame last month.

Facing charges of violation of Article 224 of the Penal Code (evasion through negligence) are officer-of-the-day Inspector Rolando Cuna, senior guards SPO4 Pedro Doctolero and SPO3 Ruperto Galliguez, and wardens SPO3 Jesus Acuna, SPO2 Benjamin Agbulos, SPO1 Nelson Alcantara and PO3 Armando Ibasco.

In his complaint, PDEA Internal Affairs Services acting director Edwin Roque said Tan's escape could not have been possible if not for the seven men's "non-performance of their duties and (their) failure to observe diligence."

Roque said Galliguez, Acuna and Alcantara did not report for work at the time Tan escaped. They were found to have swapped duty times with Doctolero, Agbulos and Ibasco without the approval or consent of the proper authority.

Cana and Doctolero failed to closely supervise and direct the wardens in the performance of their duties, while wardens Agbulos and Ibasco failed to conduct regular inspection of the detention cell where Tan was being held.

Records showed that Tan escaped from his detention cell in the Narcotics Group headquarters between midnight of Sept. 28 and 8 a.m. the following day.

The seven men were then in charge of watching Tan, who had been arrested last year for alleged possession of about 350 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu).

Tan allegedly escaped by sawing part of the iron grills in his cell window and then scaling Camp Crame's concrete wall on the Boni Serrano Avenue side.

BF lures Quezon with 'industrialization' promise

LUCENA CITY—Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando gave Quezon officials a promise of "industrialization" in exchange for their agreement to host a dumpsite for Metro Manila's waste.

Fernando made the enticing argument before the members of the Quezon provincial council yesterday as he pleaded for permission to use at least 2,000 hectares of agricultural land along the railroad tracks in the towns of Tiaong and Candelaria.

Fernando said the "Waste Rail Transfer and Processing Project" could serve as a base of industrialization for the host community.

FERNANDO

Fernando predicted that factories would sprout around the proposed dumpsite.

"But let us not call it a dumpsite but a storage site," he told the provincial legislators.

He said his office and officials of the Board of Investment have a standing agreement to declare the dumpsite an "industrial zone."

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo has already funded the proposed project.

He said the use of the Philippine National Railways is vital to the viability of the proposal.

He said the MMDA had also scouted for possible dumpsites in Laguna, but that province "is already saturated."

Quezon officials, however, reminded Fernando of an existing provincial ordinance which prohibits the dumping of "outsider" trash in any part of the province.

"And this is not merely an ordinance," said board member Dante Cadiz. "It also means penalty for violators."

But Fernando assured the provincial legislators that the project would not be implemented without the approval of the provincial officials.

Lawyer Asis Perez, head of Tanggol Kalikasan in Southern Tagalog, lambasted the proposal, stressing that "Metro Manila residents should first help themselves before the provincial folk are used as sacrificial lambs."

"Why can't these MMDA officials try the lahar area in Central Luzon?" Perez asked.

Fernando said the lahar area is out of the question since the railway does not operate there.

Jun Lontok of the Kapatiran at Luntiang Alay Para sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan or Kaakbay-Quezon, vowed to "block the trains." *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Anti-Fernando hunger strikers dispersed again

By Leila B. Salaverria

BF METAL employees taking part in a week-long hunger strike outside the office of the Metro Manila Development Authority in Makati City were dispersed again yesterday, according to a union leader.

But the protesters vowed to go on with their hunger strike until MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who also owns the firm, returns the dismissed employees to their former positions.

Moises Rodriguez, BF Metal labor union leader, yesterday said that despite the protesters' weeklong protest at the MMDA, Fernando has refused to talk with them.

Rodriguez said a representative of the union would be meeting with National Labor Relations Commission Chair Roy Señeres to discuss the case of the workers.

Rodriguez said MMDA agents took away the tarpaulin the hunger strikers were using as shelter, as well as their chairs and folding bed, and loaded these into a truck at about 9:30 a.m. yesterday.

"Those who were sleeping fell off their folding beds when the MMDA personnel confiscated the beds," Rodriguez said in an interview yesterday.

He added that for now, the hunger strikers content themselves with staying in a small area alongside the MMDA building.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the protesters had to be removed because the MMDA was continuing its cementing of the area.

He said MMDA personnel have asked the protesters to move.

"We talked to them," Vergel de Dios said.

Dismissed employees of BF Metal Corp. have been clamoring to be reinstated, saying they have been unfairly sacked.

The workers had been dismissed for allegedly taking part in an illegal strike, but they said this is untrue.

Rodriguez said the workers did not conduct an illegal strike because their protest had been conducted outside office hours.

Local governments blamed for delay in towing ordinance implementation

By Leila B. Salaverria

LOCAL government units that have not submitted their list of accredited tow truck operators in their areas are hindering the effectiveness of the towing ordinance recently passed by the Metro Manila Council.

According to Metro Manila Development Authority Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios, the bulk of the calls received by the MMDA's Call Metro 136 pertains to towing.

But without a complete list from LGUs, the MMDA is encountering difficulty in tracing the tow truck operators who are the subject of the calls, he said.

"We have to call the LGU to verify the name of the tow truck operator, but if we have the list, we can answer the callers immediately," he said.

He said only a few of the 17 cities and towns of Metro Manila have submitted their list of accredited tow truck operators.

Vergel de Dios added that there should be a deadline for the LGUs' submission of the list of accredited tow truck operators in their area.

He added that it would be better if after a certain period and an LGU still has not submitted its list, then towing operations in the area would be considered unregistered.

The towing ordinance aims to curb fly-by-night towing operators who charge astronomical fees. It also prescribes unified rules and guidelines on the proper towing of vehicles. Accredited tow truck operators must first report to the MMDA the plate number, location and offense of the vehicle they will tow.

Owners of towed vehicles can call the MMDA hotline to ask who towed their vehicle and where it has been brought.

Vergel de Dios also said that the ordinance must be implemented immediately, because unchecked towing operations could be a source of corruption.

The traffic director said that the MMDA is looking at acquiring 15 trucks to use to tow vehicles stalled on main thoroughfares.

Vergel de Dios added that the MMDA has a tow truck on standby along C-5 Road-Aurora because the narrow road there could easily get congested when a vehicle gets stalled.

Pasay 'tanod' slain

By Alcuin Papa

BARANGAY TANOD Jonard Madarang, 21, of Pasay City was killed while two of his brothers were injured by four unidentified men on Sunday in Quezon City.

Madarang, Barangay 52, Pasay, suffered several stab wounds and was declared dead at the Quezon City General Hospital, police said.

His brothers Jonathan, 25, also of Pasay, and Jorlyn, 26, of Quezon City, were still being treated in the same hospital.

The stabbing happened at about 10 p.m. Sunday in a waiting shed at the corner of Mindanao Road and Road 20 in Project 8. Jorlyn had accompanied his brothers to get a ride home after drinking in Jorlyn's house. Four men approached them and started stabbing them for still unknown reasons, police said.

Also in Quezon City on Sunday, Dominador Roquina, 25, was also stabbed after interfering in an argument between his brother and two tricycle drivers.

Roquina, of Judge Juan Luna St., Barangay Bungad, Quezon City, also suffered multiple stab wounds in the body, police said.

The attack happened at about 7 p.m. in front of the Commordore Drugstore on Roosevelt Avenue in Barangay San Antonio.

Witnesses saw Roquina's brother Anthony arguing with the unidentified tricycle drivers, police said.

When Roquina decided to come to his brother's aid, one of the drivers stabbed him, police said.

The two drivers fled. Their victim was brought to the Quezon City General Hospital where he died during treatment.

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2 ENOUGH
3 THE TUXEDO 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30
4 ROAD TO PERDITION
5 SPY KIDS 2
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7 K-19:THE WIDOWMAKER

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3 SPY KIDS 2 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30
4 K-19: THE WIDOW-MAKER 12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30
5 ENOUGH 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40

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3
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7 ENOUGH

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7 PROSTI
8 THE TUXEDO
9 K-19
10 RED BLOODED...

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2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 SPY KIDS 2
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5 REVELATION
6 TUKAAN
7 K-19
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2 CLOSED
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ROAD TO PERDITION
5 REIGN OF FIRE
6 THE TUXEDO
7 CLOSED
8 HIGH RISK

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2 K-19
3 K-19
4 REVELATION
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 PROSTI

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1 PROSTI
2 SPY KIDS 2
3 THE TUXEDO
4 ENOUGH

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2 PROSTI
3 SPY KIDS 2
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2 THE ROOKIE
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 REIGN OF FIRE
5 TUKAAN
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3
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2
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4
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6 PROSTI
7 ENOUGH
8 VAN WILDER

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8 VAN WILDER

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3 PROSTI
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 ENOUGH
6 SPY KIDS 2

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1 TUXEDO
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 DIVINE SECRETS OF YAYA SISTERHOOD
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 REVELATION
6 LEFT BEHIND

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1 TUXEDO
2 REIGH OF FIRE
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6 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS...

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When good...

From page A30

cal to the survival of an entire race, the war has officially begun.

Boob-tube booboos

HOST: Have you finished high school?

Starlet: Yes, finally.

Host: What course will you take up in college?

Starlet: I don't know yet what I will course in college.

(*Ay*, what I will course!)

* * *

Host: What are your favorite sports?

Guest: Oh, so many—like basketball, swimming and harder.

(Harder?—Oh, hurdles!)

* * *

Host: What do aliens from outer space eat?

Kid: They eat soup ingredients—with socks and shoes!

(That's so—imaginative!)

* * *

Host: I hear you're a playboy?

Guest: Before, not now. *Pero noon*, I must admit, happy-go-*lalaki ako*!

(That's so clever!)

THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ONE NIGHT STAND / DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
ODEON	TUXEDO
ODEON-2	SAM OF ALL FEAR/IKA-PITONG GLORIA
ROBEN	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SORORITY BOYS/KILLING ME SOFTLY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR	TUXEDO
REMAR-2	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PROSTI
B	TUXEDO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ENOUGH
CINEMA-2	k19 THE WINDOW MAKER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
CINEMA-2	TUKAAN
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-6	VAN WILDER
CINEMA-7	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-8	VOODOO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	K19 WIDOWMAKER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-12	ROAD TO PERDITION
CINEMA-14	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-15	REVELATION
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	SIMONE
CINEMA 2	ORANGE COUNTY (WED)SPIRIT (SAT)
CINEMA 3	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA 4	BOURNE IDENTITY
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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TUXEDO P13 12:20,2:30,4:40, 6:50,9:00	ENOUGH P13 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00	TUXEDO P13 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00

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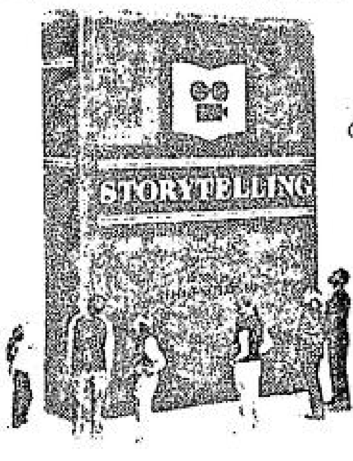
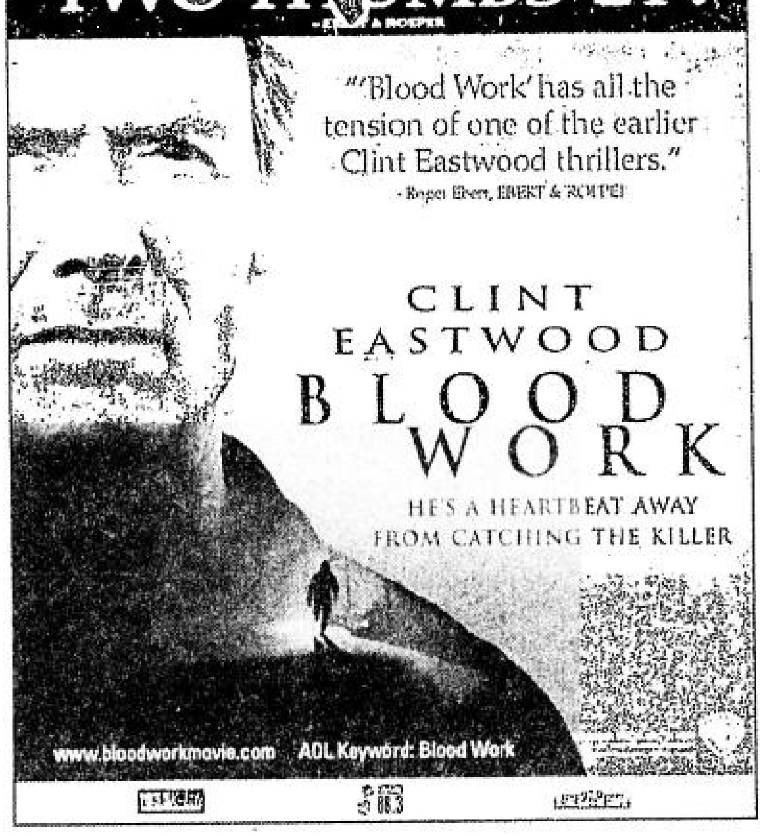

STORYTELLING

OPENS OCTOBER 9!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
"TWO THUMBS UP!"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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Alessandra can teach sister Assunta a lesson in gratitude

By Marinel R. Cruz

LOUD AND CLEAR. Alessandra de Rossi with "Mga Munting Tinig" director Gil Portes and writers Adolfo Alix Jr. and Senedy Que.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

ALESSANDRA de Rossi, already deeply distressed over her elder sister Assunta's defiance of her family, said she felt even more upset upon hearing that her sexy sister had filed for the nullification of her management contract with Manny Valera last Oct. 1.

Assunta had cited exploitation of a minor as one of the grounds for the nullification.

Alessandra said Assunta should have considered their parents' feelings first before she filed the lawsuit because "they are still our guardians, *Direk* Manny is just our manager."

Alessandra believes that her sister's boyfriend, Negros Occidental Rep. Jules Ledesma, was behind the filing of the case.

"He wants to control my sister's life," Alessandra told the INQUIRER. "His meddling with Assunta's career is doing her more harm than good.

"Sam (Assunta) should show at least a little gratitude to *Direk* Manny who helped her become what she is now. Had she not been Assunta de Rossi, I don't think Jules will pursue her."

Though she is very vocal about her disapproval of her sister's actions, Alessandra said she is still hoping to reconcile with Assunta. "After all, she is still my sister," she said.

Meanwhile, Alessandra continues to try to be a better actress. After delivering fine performances as a young incest victim in Carlitos Siguion-Reyna's "Azucena" and a sexually abused retardate in Joel Lamangan's "Hubog," she will now try to convince the audience that she can be a credible elementary teacher on screen, in Gil Portes' "Mga Munting Tinig."

"I was afraid I might not be able to convince the audience that I'm a grade school teacher because I look young for my age," De Rossi, 18, said in an interview last Friday afternoon in Quezon City.

She was reassured only when Portes and Valera, after seeing the movie in a private screening, told her she had done an impressive job.

In "Mga Munting Tinig," Alessandra plays Melinda, a new graduate of a Manila university who decides to accept a teaching job in the poor town of Malawig in Quezon.

"People there think schooling is just a waste of time," she said of the town. "The parents prefer to let their children work in the farm than go to school."

She becomes instrumental in the success of a group of barangay students who join a singing contest.

"Melinda gives hope to an otherwise hopeless and desperate community," she said.

Portes, a big hit at the 2001 Toronto International Film Festival with his "Markova: Comfort Gay," also made a splash at the more recent Toronto filmfest, where "Mga Munting Tinig" had its world premiere last Sept. 10.

Portes said the story is roughly based on the experience of his niece who taught in the rural areas of Quezon province. Like Alessandra's character, she was also assigned to train students for a provincial singing contest.

"She noticed that two of her pupils, who were brothers, never attended the practices together," Portes narrated. "When she went to their house, she discovered that they were so poor that they shared the same school uniform. My relative went to the market and bought them new ones.

"I was so touched by her story that I thought I would make a movie about it."

Portes cowrote "Mga Munting Tinig" with Adolfo Alix Jr. and Senedy Que for Team Works Productions.

"Mga Munting Tinig" has been cited as one of the 10 Asian new film classics by the American Film Institute and will be featured in the Los Angeles International Film Festival on Nov. 8-11. It will also be featured in the Rotterdam International Film Festival in the Netherlands in January and the Locarno Film Festival in Italy in February.

Alessandra said doing the Portes movie was a breeze. "Unlike my characters in 'Azucena' and 'Hubog,' it didn't require me to cry much," she explained.

She stars with seasoned actresses Amy Austria and Gina Alajar. All three were involved in the 1999 soap "Kirara: Ano ang Kulay ng Pag-ibig" on GMA 7, Amy and Alessandra as actors and Gina as director.

The filming of "Mga Munting Tinig" was finished in just 15 days. "What's great was that I got to kid around the set because Direk Gil is not strict," Alessandra said.

She said that when she went to Canada to represent "Mga Munting Tinig" in the Toronto filmfest, she enjoyed shopping and walking all by herself. "The taxi was so expensive so I just walked from shop to shop. I even got lost once!"

The Filipino-Italian teener lives alone in her house in Tandang Sora, Quezon City. She said she misses her mother Nenita Schiavone, who is in Italy, and Assunta. The sisters stopped speaking to each other in June when Assunta was working on "Kilabot at Kembot" with Bong Revilla.

But Alessandra continues to hope they will be talking again, like in the not so distant past.

> Though she is very vocal about her disapproval of her sister's actions, Alessandra said she is still hoping to reconcile with Assunta. 'After all, she is still my sister,' she said

When good girls go bold

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE LOCAL movie industry's latest bold craze started with "quickies, cheapies and sleazies" starring relative unknowns from the other side of the show big tracks—GROs, sexy dancers, play-for-pay "talents."

At first, their little films made money due to their initial shock value. After a while, therefore, producers decided to change tack. They invested more time and money in their new productions, and hired more mainstream writers and directors.

But the sexy performers, especially the women, remained a problem. Better production values only underscored their rawness, cheapness or incompetence.

So, producers started scouting around for starlets with better show biz pedigress, heretofore "bold virgins" who languished in insignificant goody-goody roles, and promised them instant stardom if they decide to throw caution—as well as their values, and clothes—to the winds.

Their movies did better, but the time came when some of these bold actresses decided that they benefited enough from all that graphic exposure, and opted to do roles that were less ultra-exhibitionistic or lewd.

This left bold-film producers with not enough "sexy-but-classy" young women to cast in their films.

How to make up for the slack? Most recently, producers' solution has been to discover non-show biz "good girls," most of them students of, uh, "exclusive" schools, to launch to stardom.

It turns out that such "educated" candidates for sexy stardom aren't all that hard to find. In fact, some of them eagerly beat a path to producers' doors.

What makes them more appealing to randy viewers than the GRO types? They are able to combine relative innocence and a mod, "liberated" attitude that makes male moviegoers think that they're getting the best of both worlds (class and sass).

Trouble is, this unique appeal doesn't seem to last much longer than each new sexy star's first few visual "deflowerments." After seeing the same physical bounties, they quickly lose their ability to tantalize and fixate.

To make the "package" even more appealing, new sexy stars often go in for breast-enlargement operations that help them literally put their best chests forward. Unfortunately, some of these boob jobs are so overly enthusiastic that the young stars' new breasts look too huge and hard to be natural looking.

New 'Roswell' season

LAST Thursday, Oct. 3, the second season of "Roswell" started telecasting on star world. Last year the show's young aliens discovered others like them who helped them understand their destiny.

This season, the enemy is among them. With the knowledge that their existence is criti-

WHEN/ A29

MARVIN WEARS STRIDERS

Actor-model Marvin Agustin is the newest endorser of footwear leader Striders USA. Marvin was chosen because, in the words of Striders president for Asia Pacific Marfina Teodoro (left), he is "energetic, hard-working, multi-talented, optimistic and fun-loving," which makes him ideal to wear the brand. With them is Striders VP for marketing Hilda Teodoro. Striders USA men's and children's shoes are sold at SM department stores nationwide.

Ogie Alcasid shows 'em how to do it without pretense

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I HAD the time of my life with my ever reliable friend **Jonn Santillan**, y beloved amiga **Allana Lopez Montelibano**, her cutie pie boyfriend **Bryan Villar** and my super friends **Veron** and **Eric** watching **Ogie Alcasid's** "O.A. sa Hits" concert in Araneta Coliseum.

As expected, the Big Dome was filled to the rafters.

It was the very first time I watched Ogie perform live and right there and then I turned into a fan. He's very good at making people cry with his bittersweet love songs and then making them laugh at his antics? What a balancing act! Not to mention how prolific he is as a songwriter.

I'm impressed by men who take the power of the written word to heart. When a man really knows how to write, that's magical. I'd rather have a man who writes me mushy love letters than one who wines and dines me.

Too bad his wife **Michelle Van Eimeren** was not around to watch her music wizard hubby shine that night. But just the same, he dedicated a song to her and their two darling daughters. His "three girls" are still in Australia following the birth of their newest baby.

Ogie jammed with Side A, Freestyle and a boy band he formed, Cassanova. He also did duets with **Regine Velasquez.**

I can't make up my mind as to which number I loved the most.

Ogie did not have to resort to fancy costumes, a flashy backdrop or to scandals and intrigues to generate attention. What he lacks in height is more than compensated for by the depth of his masterpieces.

The Awit Award winner was joined by his friends in the biz such as **Janno Gibbs** and wife **Bing Loyzaga, Dingdong Dantes, Ruffa Mae Quinto, Jaya, Janice de Belen, Robin Padilla** and **Judy Ann Santos**, to name a few.

Binoe and Juday were obviously doing a publicity stunt for their latest starrer. And in typical Pinoy show biz fashion, they must be seen in public, with a close-up of them on the huge screen.

Isn't there a less contrived way of promoting a movie? Maybe Ogie can teach some movie companies how to do away with all the pretense and just show them what you can truly call your own.

Martin Onstage

WHILE everyone thought **Martin Nievera's** Onstage performance last year was a tough act to follow, it wasn't a surprise that he would come up with another series this year. Audiences just couldn't get enough of his antics and his music.

And that's the reason why MaxiMedia is bringing back the Concert King in "Opening Night: Martin Nievera Back Onstage The Repeat" for the whole month of October.

Right before the show, there will be a lot of zany goings-on, such as band members passing through simulated metal detectors, Martin trivia being flashed on the video wall, song requests by text, and more. Celebrities and the audience will not be spared from his pranks and humor.

Martin will sing a wide range of tunes, from Seals and Crofts to Creed's "My Sacrifice."

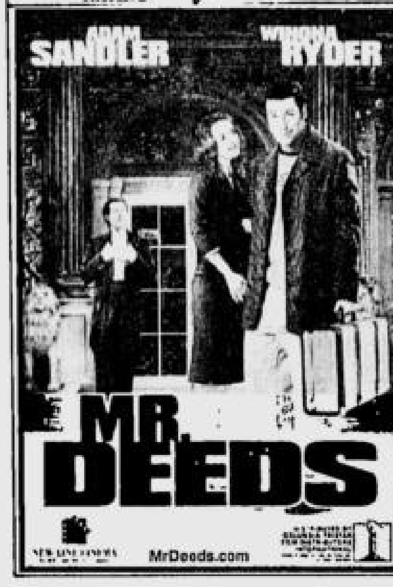
Expect more laughs, more music, more fun! See what the fuss is all about. You have six more chances to see the show that everyone still talks about, on Oct. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 at Onstage in Greenbelt 1 Makati.

In this case, too much of a good thing is wonderful. Music is lovelier the nth time around.

Guessing time

GUESS who this popular young star is whose guitar teacher gave up on her because she refuses to do her homework? She only likes to play the easy tunes but does not even make an effort to try play the difficult ones. Wonder if that's also the way she handles her TV and movie assignments? She may have sweet packaging but she's artificially sweet. More like brown sugar, sweet but unrefined.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

'Deeds,' funny Date Movie!

OPENS TOMORROW

Adam Sandler is Longfellow Deeds, a lovable small-town guy who runs a pizzeria and writes greeting-card poems.

When he turns out to be the sole heir of a multi-billionaire, he moves to New York City where greedy businessmen try to take over the media empire he inherited.

Babe (WINONA RYDER), a tabloid reporter posing as a small-town girl to get the inside story, discovers Deeds' sincerity and big heart, and finds herself falling for him.

After ***The Wedding Singer*** and ***Big Daddy***, Adam Sandler is back as the clumsy, sweet guy who gets the girl in ***Mr. Deeds.***

It's the most fun you'll have on a date movie!

BRING A DATE, the laughs are on MR. DEEDS.

AYALA CINEMAS

Discover Art Film Greenbelt 1

DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

OPENS OCTOBER 9

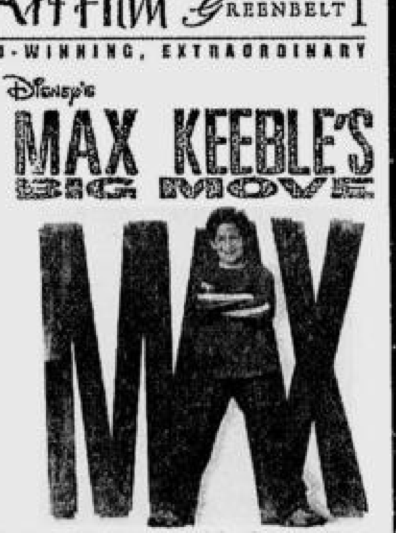
Starring: Alex D. Linz, Robert Carradine, Brooke Anne Smith; Directed by: Tim Hill

Max Keeble is a seventh grader who is bullied by everyone in school. When he finds out he's moving to a new city, he turns the table on all the people who have ever picked on him, only to find out he's not moving after all.

Award: Best Supporting Actress (Brooke Anne Smith) - Young Artist Awards, U.S.A.

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

NOKIA INQUIRER



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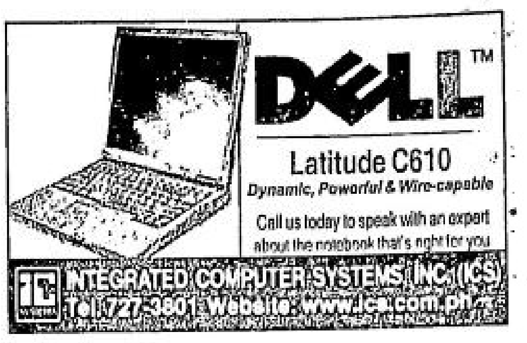
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Boardroom brawl brewing at PLDT

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE RIFT between Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. president Manuel V. Pangilinan and chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco is erupting into a boardroom struggle in the phone company, with the latter seen joining a coup d' etat being hatched by First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong.

PLDT sources close to the Cojuangco camp claimed that an anti-MVP alliance was fast gaining ground, and that it now had enough numbers in the PLDT board to vote for the ouster of Pangilinan. Pro-MVP officials, however, continued to deny the reported rift between the two top PLDT officials.

"I am not even sure that's (a coup d'etat) possible. That's a vague possibility. It should have happened while the MOA (memorandum of agreement between First Pacific and the Gokongweis) was in place," a highly placed source in PLDT said.

" I hope I don't sound too defensive, but if such a scenario were possible, Gokongwei would already be running PLDT," he added.

"The characters have changed and the struggle shifts to a new venue, which is the PLDT board," one of the sources told the INQUIRER.

Both the Pangilinan and First Pacific camps have been said to be discretely wooing people in the board to their sides to form new alliances.

"A new alliance is in the offing. Salim and Cojuangco are joining forces," the source noted.

"I am not aware that Mr. Cojuangco is part of a plan to oust Mr. Pangilinan from PLDT. In fact, Mr. Cojuangco is in San Francisco and is not privy to these rumors involving him," Alejandro Tengco, special assistant to Cojuangco, said.

Sources said Cojuangco had agreed to a one-on-one meeting with Anthoni Salim, president of the Salim group that controls First Pacific, at an undisclosed location this week. Sources said Cojuangco was scheduled to arrive early this morning from San Francisco.

"The agenda will be a post-MVP scenario and the strengthening of PLDT. Cojuangco will take over before the sale," the source said.

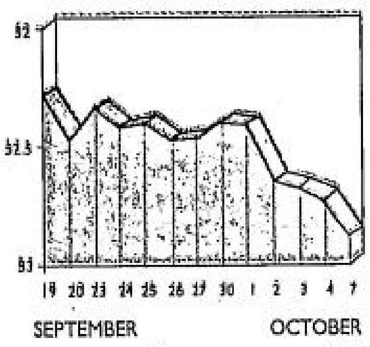
Salim wants full control of his group's investments in the Philippines, and Cojuangco is now willing to cooperate , it was noted.

Sources from the Cojuangco block said the tug-of-war within

BOARDROOM/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 52.90= $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 7, 2002

¥ 123.98= $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 7, 2002

GOLD: $322.70-323.20

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 7, 2002

STOCK MARKET

RP stocks down, near new low

LOCAL shares ended down for a fourth straight day on Monday, edging toward a new low for the year, with external worries, centered on Iraq, and domestic negatives, including the weakening peso, pushing investors to the sidelines, traders said.

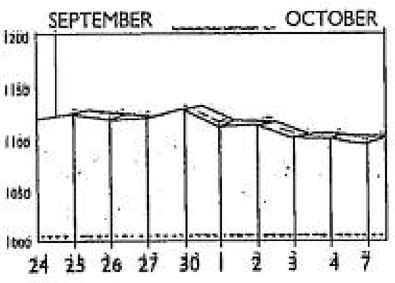
The main index closed down 3.63 points, or 0.33 percent, at 1,098.01.

The index touched a closing low for the year of 1,085.21 on Aug. 6 and an intra-day low of 1,083.91 on Aug. 7.

Value turnover languished at P190.37 million from P212.66 million

RP/ B2

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

For RP auto firms, there is no turning back

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
(Second of a series)

B-One

IN a market where everything counts in large amounts, Japanese assemblers, which account for 9 out of every 10 vehicles sold in the Philippines, are keeping their assembly lines in the country intact in the near term, although most have kept their long-term plans close to their chest.

Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. first vice president Valentino de Leon said Nissan Motor Co. had yet to firm up the Philippines' role in its ongoing efforts to rationalize its operations in Asia.

"But we intend to keep our knocked-down assembly (operation) because we believe that it will remain a viable operation even with the start of Afta," De Leon said.

Nissan's plant can produce 36,000 units a year, while its commercial vehicle affiliate, Universal Motors Corp., has a production capacity of 12,000 units.

Taiwanese auto giant Yulon group invested in Nissan Philippines in the 1990s, with an eye on making the country a production hub for exports. Although its export ambitions were tempered by a strike last year, which shut down its plant for nearly a month, Yulon-Nissan is still hoping to ship out completely built-up units from the Philippines to countries in and outside Asean.

Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp. senior vice president Melchor Dizon said his company was keeping its knocked-down assembly operations in the Philippines, although some models might be dropped to focus on key models.

Mitsubishi has the biggest ca-

FOR/ B6

Peso down to 52.90-$1

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO yesterday shed 17.5 centavos and closed at a low of 52.90 to $1 as major regional currencies like the Japanese yen tumbled on fears that the explosion of an oil French tanker off the coast of Yemen would aggravate the United States-Iraq conflict.

Traders said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas sold between $15 and $20 million to the spot market yesterday. Sources said without the BSP intervention, the peso could have breached the 53 to $1 level.

In the meantime, BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. reported that as of end-September, the country's gross international reserves stood at $6.068 billion or slightly lower than the previous month's $16.141 billion because of debt repayments.

This despite the proceeds from the government's issuance of five-year Euro bonds last Sept. 10 worth $300 million.

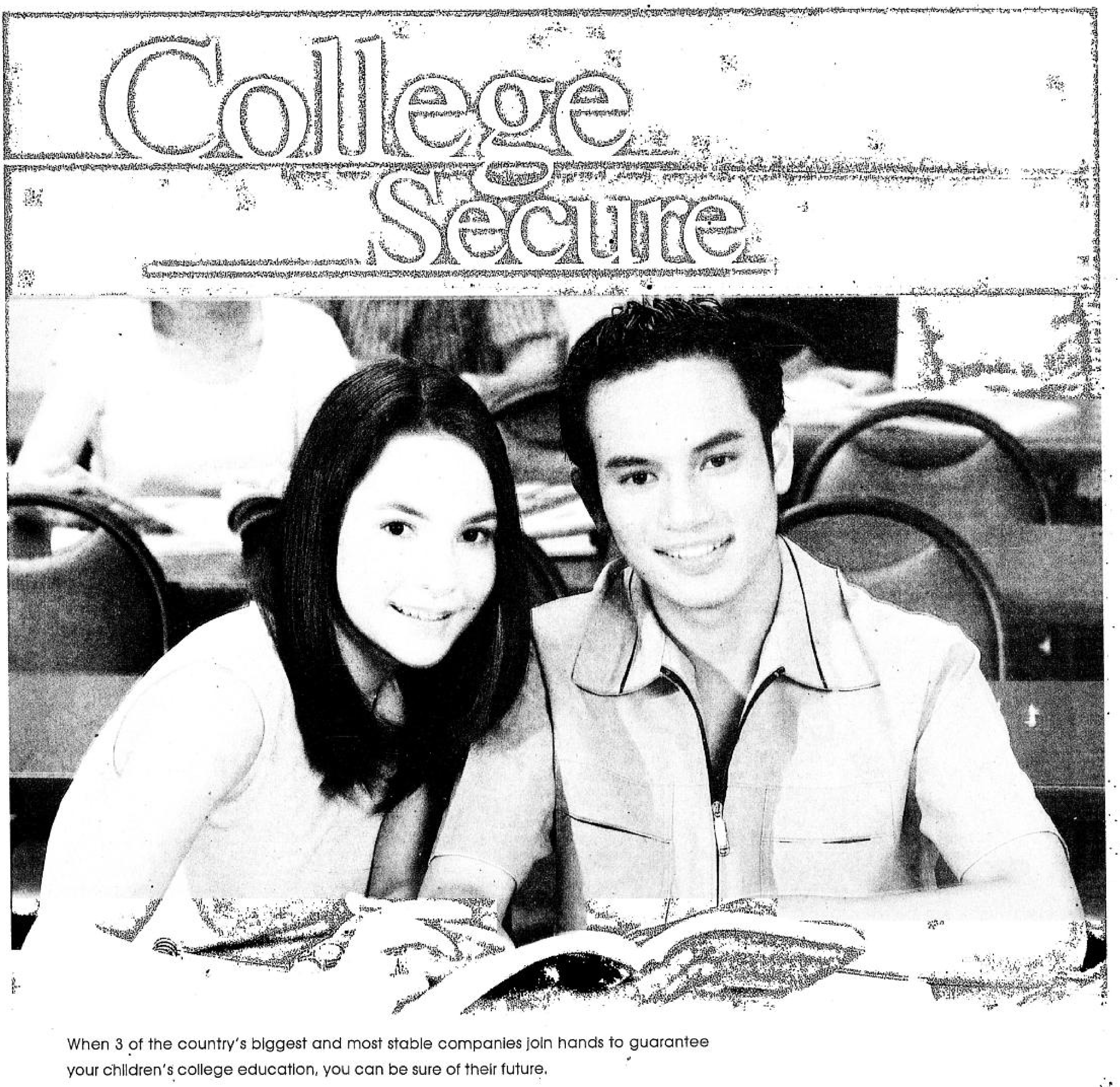
"The level of dollar reserves as of September is enough to cover 5.2 months worth of imports and is 1.4 times the amount of the country's short-term debts based on residual maturity," said the central bank official.

Tetangco said the influence of major regional currencies dragged the peso down yesterday.

The Japanese yen fell by 95 centavos to 123.8 to a dollar while the Korean won also slid to 1,240.9 from 1,232.4.

Traders said there was heavy dollar buying, especially among petroleum and related companies following the ex-

PESO/ B3



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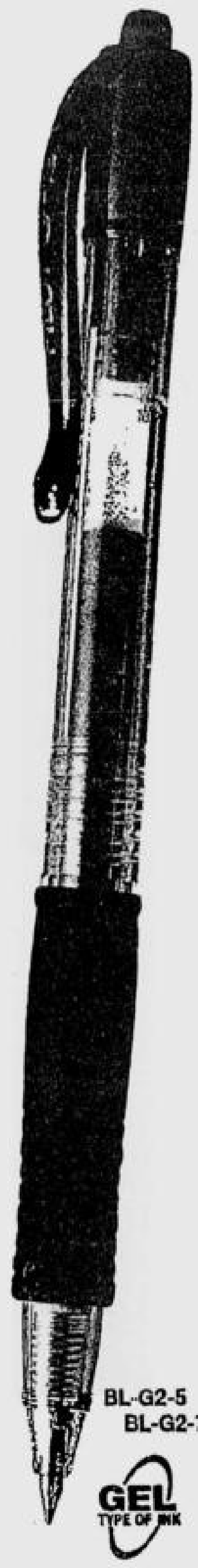

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How shaky is the SSS?—Conclusion

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

A GOVERNMENT corporation is a mongrel. On the surface, it looks just like any private corporation. Below, the picture is entirely different. In a private corporation, the shareholders are supreme. They elect—and eject—the directors. In a government corporation, the President of the Philippines is supreme; he/she appoints the directors. As a result, they are beholden to the President, not to the shareholders. The shareholders may be the taxpaying public, but it has no say whatsoever on how the government corporation is to be run.

In a private corporation, authority and responsibility are quite clear. If the corporation suffers financial damage because of the collusion or bad faith of the directors, the damage is the liability of the directors in their personal capacity. In a government corporation, the directors can, by sheer incompetence or malice, run the corporation to bankruptcy, and no one goes to jail for it.

The Social Security System is the classic mongrel. It is a GOCC, a government-owned or -controlled corporation. But the only money the government has in the SSS was the start-up fund of P500,000 appropriated by Congress in 1957. Today, its assets total P165 billion, which were built up over the years from the contributions of its members, now numbering over 24 million, who have absolutely no say on running the SSS.

The SSS law of 1997 says: "The SSS shall be directed and controlled by a Social Security Commission, composed of the secretary of labor, the SSS president and six appointed members, three of whom shall represent the workers' group, at least one of whom shall be a woman, and three from the employers' group, at least one of whom shall be a woman." A ninth commissioner comes from the general public, and he is the only one required by law to have "adequate knowledge and experience regarding social security."

My research on the qualifications of the current crop of appointive commissioners has netted me little. Doesn't that tell you something?

A commissioner receives a maximum of P35,000 a month in per diem and allowances. Not much, I admit, but a commissioner's job is one of service to the members. But a commissioner, who only attends meetings and sometimes conducts hearings, has the trappings of a minor potentate.

There are two boardrooms: at the East Avenue headquarters and the Makati building on Ayala Avenue. A commissioner has an office in each building; needless to say, the offices are almost always empty. To man these offices, a commissioner has, on average, a staff of eight. That's right, eight. In the private sector, directors do not have any staff, even those of San Miguel or Ayala.

The commission's profligacy betrays its little regard for the welfare of its members. The 2002 annual report shows that P17.3 billion in assets have disappeared from the books. The commission has not lifted one finger to punish those who stole the money.

Eight lady executives (I call them the "Eight Hail Marys") and the Philippine Association of Retired Persons filed a complaint at the Ombudsman about the scandalous investment in the merger of Equitable Bank and PCI Bank. The complaint has been dismissed (a motion for reconsideration is now pending) partly because the commission, which should have been the complainant in the first place, ignored the case completely. Another case involving the purchase of IPO shares of Consunji was also dismissed (a motion for reconsideration has been filed), partly because the commission, who should have been the complainant, again completely ignored the case.

Then there was the illegal strike by the SSS union and a bunch of executives in August last year. Back in 1987, the SSS union then staged a strike. The commission then sued. The Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution did not grant government employees the right to strike. The strike leaders were sacked. Last year, it was a different union and a different commission. Six months after the illegal strike, the commission has done nothing to punish the strikers.

PARP was forced to file a complaint at the Ombudsman late last January. In April, the Ombudsman transferred the case to the commission. Now, it is clear why the commission asked for the case. The commission wants to sit on it. In fact, PARP's witnesses, the same redoubtable "Eight Hail Marys," have been harassed. So, 14 months after the illegal strike, not a single striker has received even a gentle rap on the wrist.

The loss of assets was a loss of money only. Big money, it is true, but money just the same. But the strike was a blatant and flagrant violation of the Constitution. A commission that will not defend and protect the Constitution cannot be expected to protect and defend the funds of the poor members of the SSS.

PNR gets new rehab plan

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

STATE-CONTROLLED China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. has expressed strong interest in financing and building the long-delayed North Luzon Railways project that will snake through the shuttered northern line of the Philippine National Railway.

In a memorandum of understanding it signed with the North Luzon Railways Corp. on Sept. 14, CNMEC offered to rehabilitate and reopen the PNR's railways in northern Luzon that had been closed since 1982.

CNMEC proposed to implement the project in four phases.

Once completed, the project is expected to reopen an upgraded railway line connecting the National Capital Region and the provinces of Pampanga, Pangasinan and La Union.

CNMEC agreed to undertake, at its own cost, a feasibility study for the project to be submitted to the Northrail board within 120 days.

If the government accepts CNMEC's offer, the two side have up to four months to close a contract.

CNMEC said it would organize a team of experts to assess the technical feasibility and cost estimates of the project, taking into consideration the government's requirements.

COUNTRY SHARES

As of October 08, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	-	1,650,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	725,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	95,000/105,000 *
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	300,000
CAPITOL HILLS	-	110,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	165,000	180,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	-	350,000/450,000*/500,000 **
EVERCREST A	-	100,000
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	80,000/150,000*/250,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/C*	210,000/250,000 **	230,000/260,000 **
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	250,000/280,000 *	-
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,550,000	2,900,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	600,000/700,000 *
METROPOLITAN A/B*	100,000	115,000/125,000 *
MIMOSA IND./C3***	-	100,000/300,000***
MT. MALARAYAT A/C*	-	350,000/525,000 *
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	Please call	Please call
PUERTO AZUL	-	115,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	190,000	210,000
RIVIERA A/B*/C**	-	185,000/350,000*/400,000 **
ROCKWELL CLUB	380,000	400,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	90,000/150,000*/180,000 **
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	90,000/250,000*/350,000 **
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	1.8M
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	-	200,000/300,000 *
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	800,000 *	380,000/850,000 *
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	780,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	145,000	160,000
VALLEY GOLF	310,000	-
WACKWACK	6,500,000	-

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GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.

SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF OCT. 07, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,500,000	
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000	
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	720,000	680,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	260,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	550,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	90,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	180,000	170,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	380,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	190,000	150,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	150,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	330,000	300,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. LUISITA GOLF CLUB	400,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	270,000	250,000
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
21. MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP.)	11,000,000	
22. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,900,000	2,600,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	600,000	
24. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	700,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	100,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	340,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A""B""C"	Please call	Please call
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	150,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	210,000	
32. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	360,000	320,000
33. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,650,000	
34. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND.)	250,000	
35. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	850,000	800,000
36. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
37. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	160,000	
38. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		310,000
39. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	6,900,000	

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Maturing debt next year at $1.7B, says Camacho

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Camacho said yesterday the country's maturing obligation would peak at $1.7 billion next year.

"Next year is really the peak. It peaks at $1.7 billion. That's the highest," Camacho told reporters.

"On average, the maturing debt of the government has only been in the range of $1 billion to $1.5 billion. We want to make sure that our maturities in the future will always be managed so that we don't have a bunching up of maturities."

Asked if the government has planned borrowings, Camacho said: "There are two factors that we always consider. One is that the lengthening of maturity is always better, but we also take into account the maturity profile."

Camacho stressed that $1.7 billion was actually "a modest number" compared with the yearly maturing obligations of Latin American countries that could range between $8 billion and $10 billion.

The finance secretary stressed the maturing principal debts next year were already factored into the borrowing program for 2003.

The government said its net financing requirement for 2003 would be P136 billion.

CAP given until year's end to restore trust's health

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has given College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. until the end of the year to set in motion its plans to plug its P2.5-billion trust fund deficiency.

"The documents submitted seem to be all right. By the end of the year, we will see if everything really comes in," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said.

CAP submitted on Sept. 30 documents supporting its proposed funding scheme to deal with its trust fund deficiency.

Under the funding scheme, CAP will infuse P1.7 billion worth of Metro Rail Transit bonds, P744 million in bank guarantees, P160 million in cash and P36 million in real estate.

Bautista said the MRT bonds would be exchanged for preferred shares to be issued to the original owners of these bonds, the Fil-Estate group.

CAP should then transfer these bonds into the trust fund set up to pay for the benefits of its planholders. *Elena R. Torrijos*

DOF to issue 10-seat rule

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is set to release a new rule that will lift the excise tax exemption of vehicles that have been disqualified as 10-seaters, according to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

In a letter to Honda Cars Philippines Inc., Camacho said the new rule—drafted two months ago—would cover the auto assembler's CR-V Asian utility vehicle.

Camacho said in his letter that the Bureau of Internal Revenue, an agency under the finance department, would "definitely issue the regulation soon."

It would, however, give car manufacturers a transition period so they could sell their existing stocks.

Sources said finance officials met last week with Honda Philippines executives.

A source who attended the meeting said Honda Philippines was supportive of the government's move to amend its auto taxation scheme and lift the excise tax exemption on AUVs and 10-seaters.

Congress is working on a law that will change the basis of taxes levied on motor vehicles from engine displacement to retail price.

"The Honda officials said they have no problem with amending the motor vehicle taxes for as long as we provide a level playing field," a source said. *Clarissa S. Batino*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 7, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.75	19	18.75	19	107,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	36,500
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	1,500
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	20,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	28.5	28.5	38,200
First E-Bank Corp.	1.06	1.06	1	1	195,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	33	32	32.5	112,400
Security Bank Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	1,550,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	5,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	20,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	209	209	209	209	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1005	1005	945	965	5,730
Sun Life Financial Serv.	800	800	790	790	580
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1,200,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	450	450	440	445	390
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.029	500,000
Piltel	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	275	275	270	270	39,120
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	15,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18	18.25	18	18	5,200
Manila Electric Co. B	29	29	28	28.5	387,800
Petron Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.56	1.58	173,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	608,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	13,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	70,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	15,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	14	593,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	42,000
RFM Corp.	0.82	0.84	0.82	0.84	60,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	54	54.5	44,400
San Miguel Corp. B	59.5	59.5	59	59.5	30,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	60,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	158,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.42	2.4	2.4	814,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	60,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	310,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	50,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	289,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	300,000
Ionics Inc.	3.55	3.55	3.5	3.5	27,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	37,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Medco Holdings	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	150,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	400,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.3	60,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	50,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	20	20	20	20	4,595,900
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,500,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	800,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	784,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	48,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	60,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.165	2,250,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,812,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	2,500,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	15,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	2,173,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	130,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	110,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	15,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	4,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	14,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	100,000

CURRENCIES

Oct. 7, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.021138	1.000000	52.7230
Japan	Yen	0.008284	0.008113	0.4277
United Kingdom	Pound	1.598693	1.565600	82.5431
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130930	0.128220	6.7601
Switzerland	Franc	0.685006	0.670826	35.3680
Canada	Dollar	0.641216	0.627943	33.1070
Singapore	Dollar	0.572868	0.561010	29.5781
Australia	Dollar	0.558060	0.546508	28.8135
Bahrain	Dinar	2.708659	2.652590	139.8525
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272304	0.266667	14.0595
Brunei	Dollar	0.571426	0.559597	29.5036
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000111	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.023475	0.022989	1.2120
UAE	Dirham	0.278050	0.272294	14.3562
Korea	Won	0.000835	0.000818	0.0431
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.979300	51.6316
Argentina	Real	0.273764	0.268097	14.1349
Brazil	Real	0.282082	0.276243	14.5644
Denmark	Kroner	0.134599	0.131813	6.9496
India	Rupee	0.021142	0.020704	1.0916
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268756	0.263193	13.8763
Mexico	New Peso	0.100387	0.098309	5.1831
New Zealand	Dollar	0.488512	0.478400	25.2227
Norway	Kroner	0.137212	0.134372	7.0845
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017278	0.016920	0.8921
South Africa	Rand	0.098158	0.096126	5.0681
Sweden	Kroner	0.110099	0.107820	5.6846
Syria	Pound	0.023102	0.022624	1.1928
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029268	0.028662	1.5111
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000685	0.000671	0.0354

RP stocks down…

From page B1

last Friday.

A large chunk of the turnover was accounted for by a cross transaction worth P91.9 million of Prime Gaming Philippines Inc. shares.

Details of the transaction were not immediately available.

With foreigners liquidating positions and no positive economic or corporate news emerging, most investors are staying out of the market for now, traders said.

"People just want to get out and convert their holdings into cash," said Henry Ong, KGI Securities vice president for sales.

With the peso weakening to a 14-month low against the dollar some foreign institutional investors were seeking to cut their losses and exit the market.

At 0632 GMT the peso was at 52.89 to the dollar after earlier touching P52.90, a 14-month intra-day low.

"The weakening peso is affecting sentiment. It is hurting portfolios especially of foreigners who bought in at a better exchange rate," Ong said. *Reuters*

DISCLOSURES

EXPRESS Holdings Inc. has bought 5 million shares of **JG Summit Holdings Inc.** at P1.36 a share on Oct. 2.

* * *

PRIME Gaming Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 24, 11 a.m., at the Kamagong function room of the Mandarin Oriental in Makati. Only stockholders as of Sept. 24 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Medco Holdings Inc.** were Stephen Riady, John Lee, David Yeh, Dionisio Carpio Jr., Caly Ang, Solomon Castro, Vicente Ang, Lee Seng Huang and Edna Reyes. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

DTI urged to implement used vehicle import ban

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LOCAL vehicle assemblers and dealers are pressing the Department of Trade and Industry to carry out the President's directive to stop the importation of used, right-hand drive (RHD) vehicle through the Subic Freeport Zone following a legal setback in the Olongapo Region Trial Court (RTC).

A few weeks after the President announced that her government would stop further entry of second-hand vehicles in Subic, the Olongapo RTC dismissed due to "forum shopping" a petition by the Philippine Automotive Association (PAA)—the country's biggest group of automotive franchise dealers—to stop the Land Transportation Office (LTO) from further processing the registration of used vehicles from the Subic Freeport Zone.

An industry source said assemblers and dealers would meet today to map out their next move in their campaign to stop the booming second-hand vehicle trade in Subic which has been poaching on the market of new cars and commercial vehicles.

The source said the Department of Trade and Industry should act immediately on the President's order before the end of the year because they have to prepare for stiffer competition from imports next year with the onset of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) where duties on completely built- up units from the region would fall to 5 percent from 30 percent.

The source said it had been nearly a month since the DTI announced the reforms in the Motor Vehicle Development Program (MVDP) but it has yet to come up with any concrete action plan to implement the promised ban .

The source said the recent Olongapo RTC decision had likewise made it urgent for immediate DTI action because Subic traders have become bolder in their trade.

The PAA had succeeded in obtaining a three-day temporary restraining order from the Olongapo RTC barring the Land Transportation Office from processing the registration papers of used, RHD vehicles from Subic.

The PAA thought the TRO would be extended up to 20 days and eventually turned into a permanent injunction until Judge Eliodoro G. Ubiadas took over the case when the original judge suddenly inhibited himself from the case.

PAA has disputed Ubiadas' ruling of forum shopping as it claimed that it had withdrawn the case it filed with the Quezon City RTC before any hearings were made on the case.

The PAA is contesting the legality of SBMA's second-hand importation because the country's governing rules explicitly prohibit the importation of RHD vehicles and second-hand imports were allowed only on a very limited basis, such as through the *balikbayan* program, and for limited types such as special purpose vehicles.

LTO figures in the last 2 years showed a wide gap between the agency's new registrations and sales [illegible] w vehicles. LTO registerec [illegible] 51 units in 2000 and 173,[illegible] its in 2001 versus vehicle s[illegible] 83,994 in 2000 and 76,671 units in 2001. The DTI estimated that Subic traders sold more than 50,000 used vehicles last year.

Focus on improving tax collection efforts, gov't told

By Abigail L. Ho

THE COUNTRY'S budget deficit for 2002 could hit P200 billion if the government would not implement more efficient tax collection and strategic spending measures, according to a former finance secretary.

In an interview yesterday, Asian Institute of Management president and former finance chief Roberto de Ocampo said the government should try to "keep a hawk's eye" on two important ratios: revenue effort and debt service.

Revenue effort refers to the percentage of revenues collected compared with the country's gross domestic product.

De Ocampo explained that the average revenue effort among Asian countries stood at 17 percent but the Philippines could come up with only 12 percent.

To increase this, he said the government should improve its efficiency in collecting taxes, spend more judiciously and generate revenues from other sources including privatization of assets and the downsizing of existing government agencies and companies.

He said the recent appointment of former Customs Commissioner Guillermo Parayno as head of the Bureau of Internal Revenue was a good first step in improving tax collection efforts.

"He's the kind of fellow that they should have thought about a long time ago. He's honest, streetsmart and ruthless. He has started enforcing measures that would at least lead to better compliance. That's a good first step," he said.

De Ocampo added that much attention should also be paid to strategic government spending, especially with the approaching elections season.

Naia-3 road project facing further delay

CLOSE to 50 illegally built commercial establishments on a prime 1,500-square-meter area inside Villamor Air Base are blocking the implementation of a vital road widening project of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) critical to the soft opening of Naia Terminal 3 Project in December as instructed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

This was disclosed by DPWH officials who said the widening project "has already been seriously delayed due to the presence of powerful groups backing the squatters." This was confirmed by sources from the office of Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad.

The DPWH was planning to widen the Manlunas Road for greater road safety and convenience in order to provide efficient access to the Naia-3 in time for its scheduled soft opening in December

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Boardroom brawl brewing at PLDT

From page B1

the PLDT board had started.

The PLDT board convenes monthly but it has yet to schedule its meeting for this month.

Cojuangco and Pangilinan used to be allies in a successful effort to block the Gokongweis' attempt to take over PLDT, but the alliance, sources said, crumbled "due to fundamental differences."

In the meantime, a PLDT spokesperson said several groups had expressed interest to buy First Pacific's key stake in the phone firm, but Pangilinan was not among the suitors.

Analysts have been expecting new buyers to come forward after the Gokongwei group walked away last week from a nearly four-month-old agreement to buy a 24.4-percent controlling stake in PLDT from Hong Kong-based First Pacific.

"There have been a number of groups that wish to make an offer for the stake of First Pacific in PLDT primarily due to PLDT's strong financial and operational performance," PLDT spokesperson Butch Jimenez said.

"My understanding is that Mr. Pangilinan will be presenting these options to First Pacific, though I must make it very clear that Mr. Pangilinan himself is not personally part of the group or groups that intend to make offers." Sources close to PLDT said that First Pacific might hold off another attempt to sell the PLDT stake the share prices of the phoen company and First Pacific's Philippine flagship Metro Pacific Corp. recover.

First Pacific also planned to sell a 50.4-percent interest in property firm Bonifacio Land Corp held by Metro Pacific.

The Gokongwei group, owner of JG Summit Holdings Inc., dropped its plan to buy First Pacific's interests in PLDT and Bonifacio Land partly due to aggressive resistance from the management of the target firms, including Pangilinan. *With a report from Reuters*

Peso . . .

From page B1

plosion of the French tanker that some feared could trigger a US attack on Iraq.

With prospects of an accelerated US attack on Iraq, oil companies led an aggressive buying of dollars for their increased importation. Tetangco said banks that were short in dollars also scrambled for greenbacks given the unfolding tension in the Middle East.

Tetangco said there was a substantial selling of dollars among exporters who cashed in on the peso fall against the dollar. "Exporters believe it is a good level for them to convert their holdings," he added.

Traders felt the pressure on the peso would persist in the coming days. A trader from a foreign bank pointed out that since the peso opened and closed lower than the Friday level, weakness was expected to linger.

The peso opened at 52.81 and the highest level during the day was 52.77.

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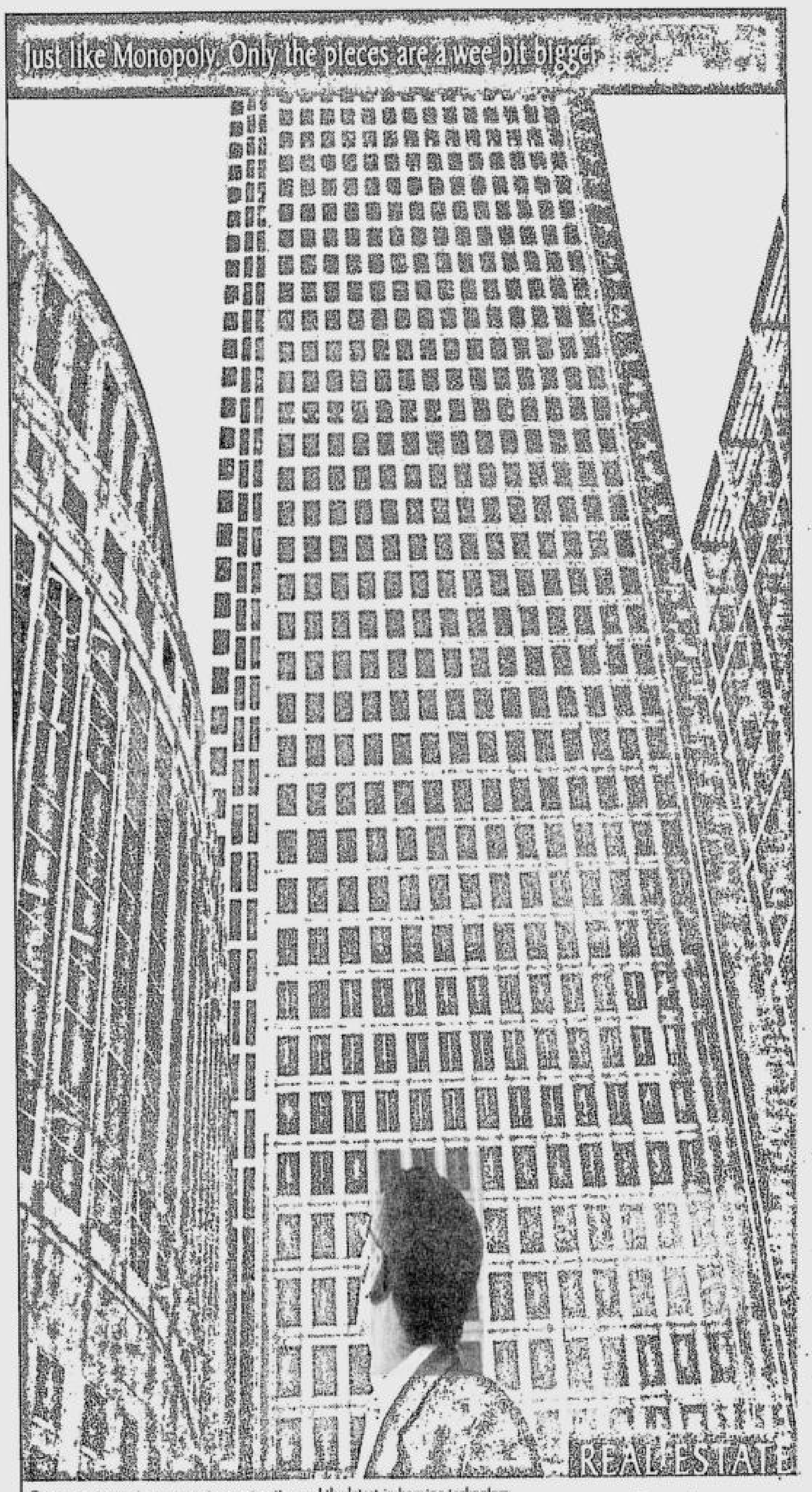
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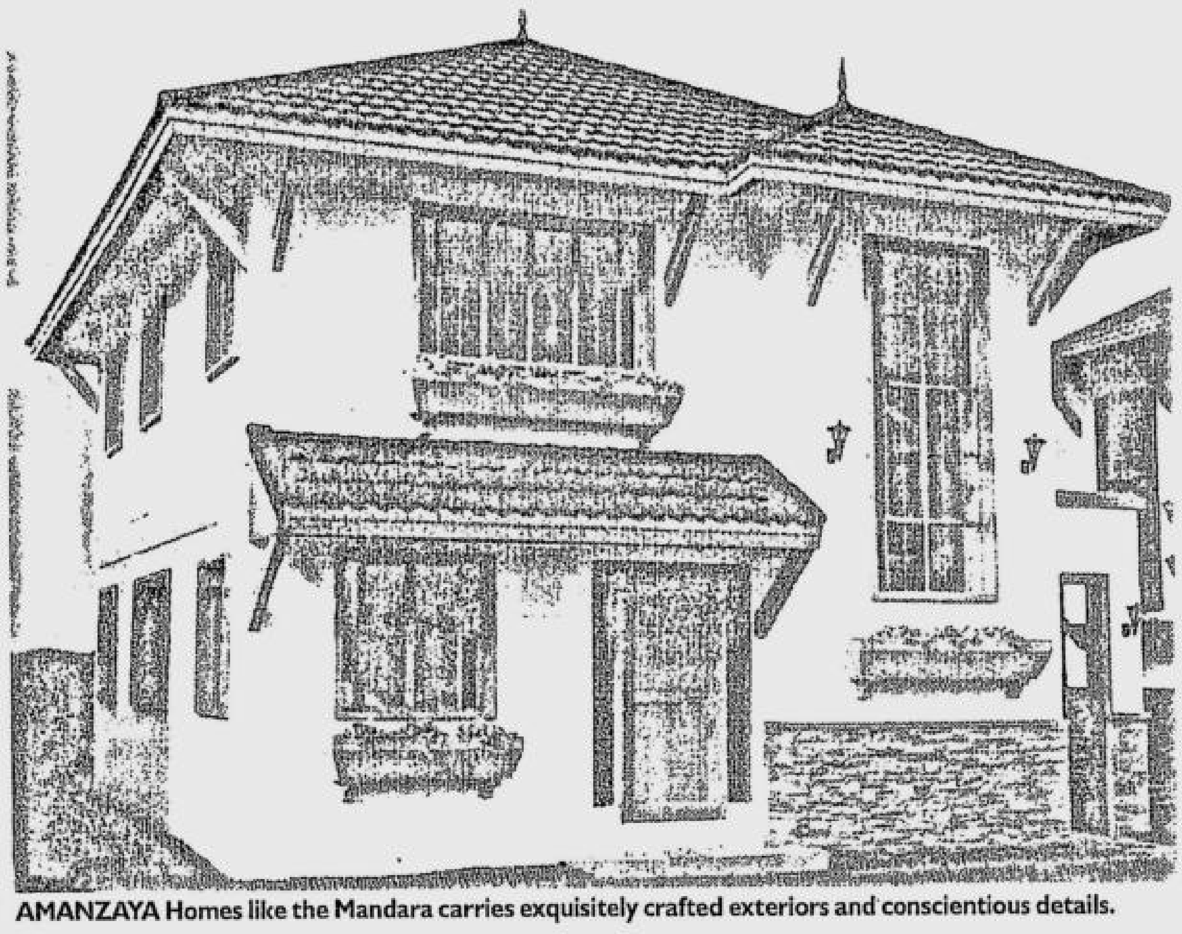
Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

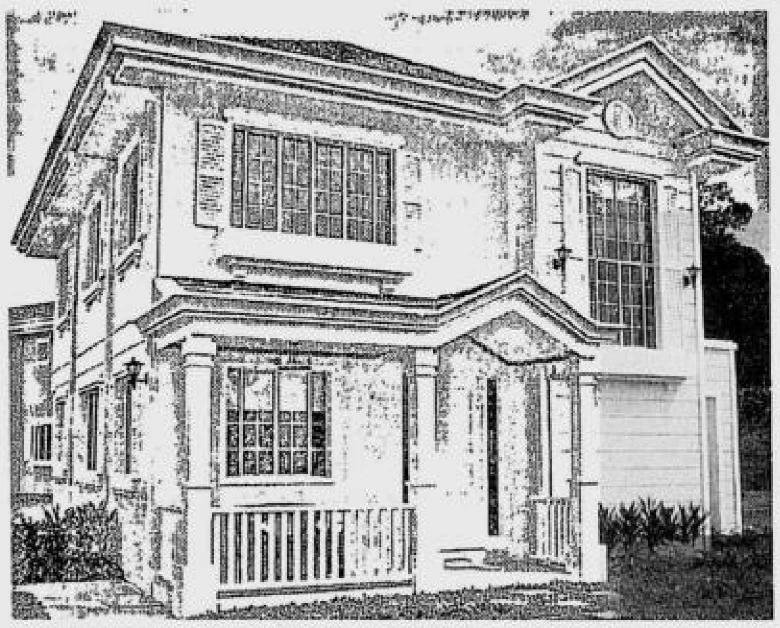
EARTH+STYLE

Building not just homes but also lifestyle

By Charles E. Buban



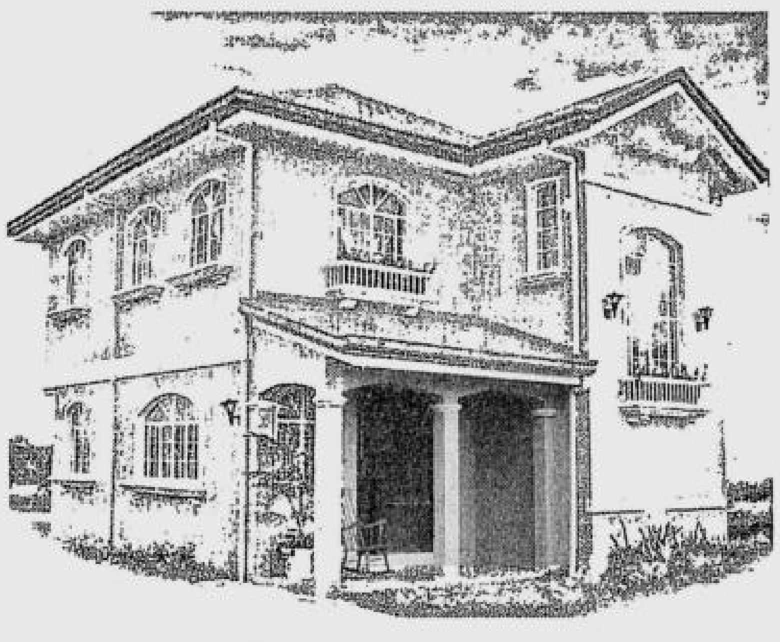
AMANZAYA Homes like the Mandara carries exquisitely crafted exteriors and conscientious details.



THE INGRID house model of the Park Villas reflects the sophistication of the American way of life.

FOR ACERO, Earth+Style homes and villages are the result of his company's desire to enrich both their clients' personal and professional life.

ITALIAN-INSPIRED Villa Villaggio like the Fountoura is complete with delightful architectural details and well-planned layout.



CASA del Sol like the Corsica provides the best of both worlds—elegant and functional homes within a village complete with amenities.

IN CHOOSING a home, and a community for that matter, a would-be buyer is often dependent on what the developer has to offer. More often such a choice is too limited, leaving the buyer with not much option.

This time an up-and-coming real estate developer tries a different approach—one that empowers their clients to choose.

"We are, first and foremost, a lifestyle provider that asks first what you want in a home and the community you're going to live in," said Earth+Style deputy COO Arnie Acero. "Even the color, size, desired house details and lot location will be taken into consideration: the last thing we'll ask is how much you can afford."

Earth+Style Corp. considers itself a lifestyle property developer, perhaps a new term that gives premium to the lifestyle values of its client.

Listening to their client

"We provide our clients exactly what they've dreamed of. We want to be a company that thinks and feels the way our clients do," said Acero.

To realize this vision, Earth+Style in its two-year existence created several communities that feature a wide variety of amenities so that whatever their clients are looking for, the company can help them find a place in one of these developments.

As a result, Earth+Style came out with six villages carrying distinct themes and homes that are varied as their clients' tastes. "We believe in our clients' power of choice so we made each of our homes expandable and modifiable," described Acero.

Lifestyle values

"Here at Earth+Style, we begin by asking what our client's lifestyle is. Is she somebody who prefers more family time? then perhaps she prefers a resort-like community that gives more time to family get-together," explained Grace Ayento, Earth+Style marketing manager.

A client can choose from the six different Earth+Style villages:

- The Renaissance-inspired Villaggio Ignatius located on Trias-Amadeo Highway, Gen. Trias, Cavite
- The Italian-Mediterranean-inspired Villaggio Di Xavier located on Jubilation avenue, Biñan, Laguna
- The tropical resort Pacific Parkplace located on Governor's Drive, Dasmariñas, Cavite
- The American suburb living of Parkplace and Grand Parkplace Villages located on Aguinaldo Highway, Imus, Cavite
- The Asiatic-themed Jubilation West and Jubilation New Biñan on Jubilation Avenue, Biñan, Laguna.

Ayento revealed that they created these communities with today's ladies in mind. "They can be mothers or professionals who are dynamic. We see them as individuals who are family oriented, yet carrying a sense of individuality, serious with work, yet in love with life. They will definitely benefit from what Earth+Style had prepared for them."

Suitable to one's taste

Quality of living also means a livable and beautifully designed homes. Earth+Style's innovative homes vary in size and layout to fit their clients' taste. Each design begins with a focus on the changing needs and characteristics of today's family.

"The entire team remains steadfastly committed to providing families with quality homes to call their own. We're here to make the dreams of a home a reality," assured Acero.

In each of the six villages, Earth+Style created homes that fit each community. They come in four main design groups, each carrying its own architectural themes. House and lot buyers can choose from American-inspired homes of Park Villas or the Asiatic-themed homes called Amanzaya, or one can also opt for the ever favorite Mediterranean-inspired homes of Casa del Sol or the Italian-themed homes of Villa Villlaggio.

"These Earth+Style homes are about enriching the lifestyle values of the family. The home designs are carefully selected to cater to the needs of both the individual members as well as the family as a whole. They come in a wide variety of sizes, colors and designs so as to suit the discerning lifestyles of the market," explained Acero.

The American-inspired homes of the Park Villas reflect the sophistication of the American way of life. Choose from the three design concepts: the classical Ingrid, the contemporary Natalie and the modern Calista. These suburban abodes can be found within the Parkplace and Grand Parkplace Villages.

Mediterranean-inspired

Casa Del Sol, on the other hand, is Mediterranean-inspired homes available in three design concepts: the Andalucia that hints of the Romantic homes of the Mediterranean, the luxurious Corsica and the picturesque beauty of Valetta. These home types are located inside Pacific Parkplace Village.

Within the confines of Villaggio Ignatius and Villaggio Di Xavier lies a variety of Italian-inspired Villa Villagio type of homes—the functional Xavier, glorious Fontura and modernistic Bellarmino collections. Each of these collections features different home designs that vary in size and design for start-up families or individuals to the more spacious 2-story, 5-bedroom single-detached units.

Amanzaya is the newest addition to the company's home design concept and will be located inside the Jubilation New Biñan. It carries Asian aspect of living that features tranquility, spirituality and blissfulness. Amanzaya homes are available in three design concepts: Mandara, Aralia and Jaya.

Earth+Style is now preparing to launch the Jubilations as its flagship project to boost the company's positioning in the market.

Landco launches Pacific Mall Lucena

LEADING property developer Landco Pacific Corp. launches another innovative commercial project, the Pacific Mall Lucena, a world-class shopping destination targeted to the needs of consumers in Quezon and surrounding provinces.

The Pacific Mall Lucena is the third in a series of developments—from NE Pacific Mall in Cabanatuan to Pacific Mall Legazpi in Bicol—which promises to be another breakthrough project for Landco, a frontrunner in the lifestyle real estate market.

Regional force

With the project, Landco Pacific reinforces its position as a regional force in Luzon as well as in the Visayas and Mindanao by pump-priming the local economy and generating an added source of income for the communities they serve.

It also remains at the forefront of the most innovative real estate developments in the country, having lined up the completion of over 2,000 hectares of current and future real estate projects that are expected to further boost the company's income for the year 2002. These projects include the launch of Leisure Farms in Lemery, Batangas, that is an agro-tourism residential product catering to Metro Manila customers, and Terrazas de Punta Fuego in Nasugbu, Batangas, the second phase of Landco's highly successful flagship project, Peninsula de Punta Fuego.

Complete mix

Situated in the heart of downtown, the three-story Pacific Mall Lucena will be anchored by the Metro Gaisano department store and supermarket featuring a complete mix of merchandise amid an appealing architectural ambience. Aside from offering an array of retail shops, the new mall will also feature four state-of-the-art cinemas plus a wide selection of restaurants, café bars and fast-food chains to choose from. The new mall will have a total floor area of 48,000 sq. m.

The Pacific Mall Lucena is a development of the Pacific Mall Corp., a joint-venture company of Landco Pacific Corp. and the Metro Gaisano Group of Cebu. The Gaisano Group is recognized for its successful chain of Metro supermarkets and department stores in Legazpi as well as key cities in the Visayas such as Cebu, Mandaue and Colon. Metro Gaizano Lucena, which will serve as anchor for Pacific Mall Lucena, is also one of Gaisano's chain of Metro stores.

HELPING SOLVE HOMELESSNESS

Creba pledges 500,000 housing units

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) yesterday pledged to the Macapagal administration the delivery of some half million housing units to help solve the country's housing shortage.

Creba, the industry's largest organization of developers, builders, planners, manufacturers and suppliers, and professionals in different fields, made the pledge at the opening program for the observance of National Shelter Month at the House of Representatives.

Florentino S. Dulalia Jr., Creba national president, speaking at the program, said under the organization's Housing Finance Program, with the government's support and implementation, homelessness and squatting will be licked.

Resolution of commitment

Dulalia said Creba will present the formal resolution of commitment on the delivery of housing units to President Macapagal-Arroyo during the joint 2002 National Convention of the Creba and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council on the theme "Alliances and Unity: The Key to Economic Recovery" in Baguio City on Oct. 9-11. Ms Macapagal has been invited to be the convention keynote speaker.

In her recent State of the Nation address before Congress, the President has identified housing as one of her priority programs for the masses. Since last month, Creba and the HUDCC had been urging other industry associations to join the pledging session and commit their own contributions to the housing program.

Housing production

The country's backlog of housing units is estimated at 4.5 million units, with a yearly increase of some 280,000 units. The yearly volume of housing production required to wipe out the shortage, including the annual increase of homeless families, is placed at some 500,000 units. Housing production for the next 20 years will need the conversion of some 10,000 hectares into residential and urban land.

Dulalia thanked Speaker Jose de Venecia, Rep. Prospero C. Nograles, chair of the committee on housing and urban development, and the entire House membership for approving the bill establishing the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which embodies Creba's housing finance provisions.

The President had certified to the urgency of the measure which was endorsed for enactment by the HUDCC. Dulalia especially thanked Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita, the bill's principal author.

As part of the opening program, the Creba Social Housing Foundation led by its president Demetrio Posadas began on the House of Representatives ground the construction of a modular housing unit to showcase the latest housing technology designed to reduce production time and shelter delivery. Nograles and members of the committee on housing and guests viewed the framing process and completed housing unit

Stronger partnership

"We in Creba," Dulalia stressed, "have every reason to hope that with the provisions on availability of affordable credit to homebuyers, the government's housing program will succeed in delivering decent and affordable housing units to the homeless."

Under the Department of Housing and Urban Development, he said, Creba can look forward to an even stronger partnership with the national government in homebuilding efforts. Dulalia cited the government's housing sector headed by Secretary Michael T. Defensor for supporting the private sector's initiatives and fully appreciating Creba's sincerity in resolving the crisis of homelessness."

Continuing advocacy

Said Dulalia: "The government can rest assured that Creba will continue to contribute its share in homebuilding, in helping resolve the issue of homelessness, and thus assisting in the common effort of laying down the foundation of a strong republic for everybody's good."

Creba's continuing advocacy has underscored the pump-priming impact of housing development on the national economy, Dulalia said. Housing development will propel not only the expansion of scores of related industrial sectors and concerns, especially the manufacture of housing materials, but also the generation of employment opportunities for the skilled and semi-skilled workers as well as the thousands of professionals in this country.

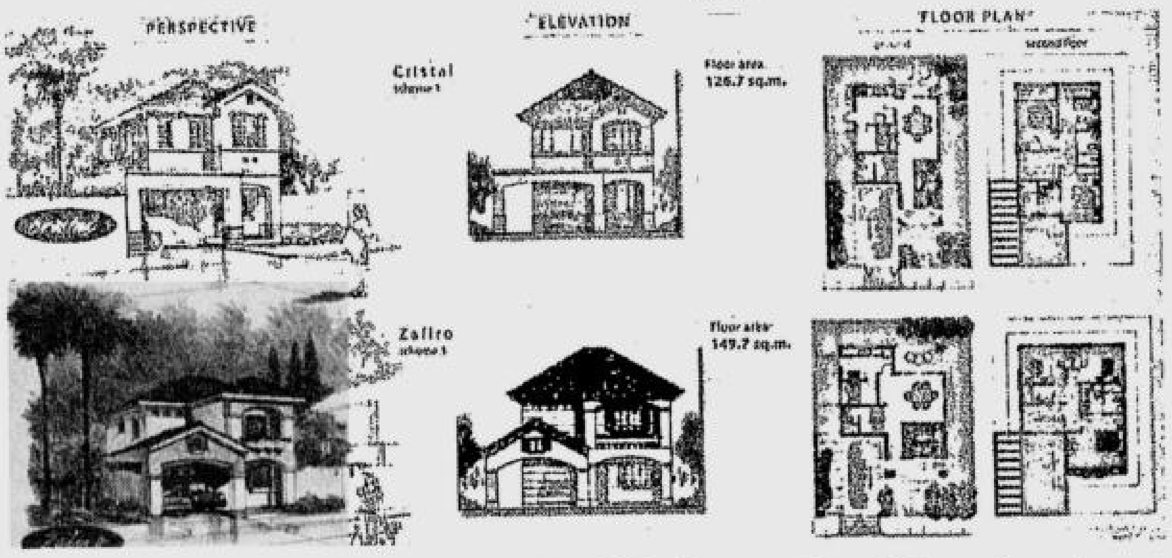
Creba int'l chapters

Meanwhile, Creba announced the launch of its own foreign investments program through the establishment of Creba international chapters that will spearhead the campaign for overseas Filipino investments in the Philippines and thus boost the government's foreign exchange reserves.

Thus, 20 Creba-USA chapters have been organized. The officers will be formally inducted in Carson City and New York in the first week of November. Another Creba chapter is being organized in Vancouver, Canada. The US chapters will be led by Susan Barlin as president and Leon Katz as secretary general. Twenty of the incoming officers led by Barlin and Katz will join the Creba-HUDCC National Convention in Baguio City.

Ayala Land lauds Negros family sanctuary

By Tessa R. Salazar



THERE are more than 165 architectural plans of Spanish Mediterranean home designs to choose from.

HOME to nature enthusiasts where Mount Kanlaon rises 8,100 feet—the highest in central Philippines—Negros Occidental is also home to several marine sanctuaries and caves. It is also known as the sugar capital of the Philippines.

The provincial capital Bacolod is where one also finds several challenging golf courses, making it the golfing center in the Visayas. It was recently adjudged as the most competitive city in terms of quality of life. It is also described as the equivalent of Cebu 10 years ago. It has wider, cleaner roads with vast tracts of lands.

Bacolod is part of Metro Bacolod which include three other cities—Talisay, Silayan and Bago. Talisay City, which is 2.5 km away from Bacolod, is making ripples lately as the "ultimate" retirement haven and family sanctuary.

High-end project

Ayala Land Inc. strokes its magic in Talisay. In 1997, a high-end residential project called Ayala North Point was launched. It became a sanctuary and retirement haven for the affluent. It has claimed at least 90 percent of the relative market share in the area. With phase 1, the average lot cut was 515 sq. m and the average package price was P2.5 million.

Of the buyers of Ayala North Point properties, 60 percent are based in Manila and abroad such as the United States, London and United Arab Emirates. Some buyers are Negrenses married to expatriates, investing in a probable retirement home.

"Negrenses from the AB market bought multiple lots, and the average purchase was 2.8 lots," said ALI division manager Tetta B. Baad. "Some buyers even bought eight to 11 lots and some bought 500-sq.-m lots only to be used as their garages," she observed.

'Aspirational' segment

But there would be another type of market, as ALI would later realize. A large segment described as "aspirational" also wanted to get an Ayala property in Talisay City but couldn't because the package price of Ayala Northpoint was beyond their means. Recognizing that, ALI decided that it would develop a more affordable residential project, which offers the same Ayala formula but at a more affordable range.

ALI developed the Plantazionne Verdana Homes situated beside the posh Ayala North Point to address the clamor for smaller, cheaper property. Plantazionne is located in a property fully owned by ALI. To date, it consists of 159 lots.

A physical demarcation line between Ayala Northpoint and Plantazionne is a river. ALI is building a four-lane 40-m private bridge that will connect Ayala Northpoint to Plantazionne.

The Northpoint is served by its own spine road and has its own gate. Northpoint and Plantazionne have separate clubhouses, amenities and leisure facilities. Plantazionne's 1.3-ha. Spanish Mediterranean-inspired clubhouse contains a swimming pool, basketball and volleyball courts, a function room and a kiddie playground.

Northpoint and Plantazionne are strategically located along the highway and near the future airport in Silay City 5 km from Talisay.

Plantazionne has lot cuts from 150 to 317 sq. m with an average lot at 224 sq. m. Ayala Northpoint's smallest property is 450 sq. m. The average residential-package price in Plantazionne is P850,000 for a 224-sq.-m property. Ayala Northpoint's, on the other hand, costs P2.5 million.

Baad said there are over 165 architectural plans of Spanish Mediterranean home designs for lot buyers. Lot buyers are free to customize theirs via an interactive CD.

A P75,000 incentive would be given to the first 10 lot owners who would start construction of their houses before December 2004.

Target

Plantazionne targets families with combined household income of at least P50,000, 30 percent of which should be allotted to real estate amortizations. Ayala North Point officer in charge Luchi C. Pretta said the average amortization for Plantazionne would be P13,000 per month. A lot in Plantazionne costs as low as P6,000 a month, she added.

Accomplished executives, young doctors, budding entrepreneurs, new couples, growing families, retirees and empty nesters also reside in Negros. Empty nesters, in particular, own mansions and haciendas but since their kids have already married and settled elsewhere, these empty nesters want to maintain smaller properties in the city to function as a transition home.

'Pocket park'

Designed with the Filipino family in mind, and because Negrenses valued family activities during the weekends, ALI thought of providing them features maximizing family interaction. Thus, ALI has introduced the cluster lots design. Examples of cluster designs are 10, 11 or even 12 lots in a cluster. Each cluster lot would have a 50-sq.-m "pocket" park.

If siblings—brothers and sisters with their own families—decide to live together or next to each other, they can get one cluster. They could have their pocket park gated and they would have naming rights. They could name their cluster, for example, the "Castillo Circle" or the "Salaza Loop." The park can be used exclusively for that cluster.

Of course, there would still be the 1.3-ha. central park and the village clubhouse. The ambiance of Plantazionne resembles that of a resort.

"Cluster design is another version of a compound. It is an extended family concept where families eat out and go to ancestral houses on weekends," said Pretta.

Of course, individual lots are still available in Plantazionne for nuclear families.

NEW BUILDING
The two-story CJRS Parkview commercial building recently opened on The Strip to serve the needs of residents of Laguna BelAir, a township development of Empire East Land Holdings Inc., and nearby communities. It is home to a barbershop, billiard hall, boutique, water refilling station and bookstore. The LBA Commercial Center is an emerging shopping and leisure destination in the south.

Quadrillion sponsors design tilt

LA JOYA de Sta. Rosa is a jewel garden community rising in Balibago, Sta. Rosa Laguna, master-planned by Palafox Associates—the architect, urban planners and consultants—and developed by Quadrillion Group of Companies. This Spanish Mediterranean style residential subdivision promises a whole new approach to living, evoking tranquility with every detail of the community set to the utmost.

La Joya de Sta. Rosa is a development primarily marketed for the families of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who want to begin a new lifestyle at the heart of Laguna's urban growth. This high-class residential subdivision is also marketed for the local residents who have the vision for an up and coming center for home and commercial living. But more than developing properties and housing projects, the QGC's drive is to help families build a home, thus, help Filipinos build a nation.

Contest

In the many facets of nation-building, La Joya de Sta. Rosa welcomed the creativity of sophomore and junior college students of interior design. Together with the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers headed by president Belen Morey, QGC launched its first Students Interior Design Contest. Students and interior design professors from Assumption College, College of the Holy Spirit, St. Scholastica's College, University of the East, University of the Philippines and University of Sto. Thomas joined the contest.

The panel of judges included internationally acclaimed interior designer Ivy Almario; renowned architects Gerry Contreras and Arlen de Guzman; Palafox Associates partner Liza Caguingin and QGC president and CEO Elsie D. Chua.

The contest seeks to create an effect of elegance, simplicity and functionality of materials and finishes.

Winners

Six entries qualified for the implementation of their designs in two categories. For category A, the winners were Armando Ong Jr. of UE and the group of Cheryl Miravite of UST for Gardenia model as well as Kathryn Antonio of Assumption College and the group led by John Montes of UST for Heliconia model. Angelito Villanueva of UE for Azalea model and Michelle Ann Dacumos of Assumption College for Bougainvilla model.

Guests became witnesses to the blessing and ribbon cutting ceremony of the homes as the group of student interior designers revealed each model unit that they masterfully created. During the awarding ceremonies held July 7 at the clubhouse of La Joya de Sta. Rosa, each student or group finalist was given a cash prize of P10,000 and a certificate of recognition.

Emerging as the overall winning school was University of Santo Tomas. UST Dean of Interior Design Ma. Socorro Gomez received an additional cash prize of P10,000 and a certificate as the overall winning school.

The winning designs and model homes are now open for public viewing. Those interested may visit La Joya de Sta. Rosa and enjoy the Buyers Showcase promo. Quadrillion will be giving away entertainment showcase for Azalea and Bougainvilla models; dining showcase for Heliconia models; and kitchen showcase for Gardenia model. The furniture fixture and equipment used in the actual implementation are for sale.

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Termite queendom

HOMEOWNERS rejoice when the termite queen is captured. She is after all a virtual egg-laying machine, bringing forth many thousands of wood-gnawing critters into the earth, refertilized by the king every so often within the year. The queen is approximately 100 times larger than the rest of her nest mates, her ovaries filling up her swollen body.

"Her Majesty" often lives in a chamber at the center of the nest away from danger and is constantly cared for by the worker termites. With the help of secondary queens that also lay eggs, the population of the colony easily reaches many millions.

But even when the queen is caught, life goes on for these termites because secondary reproductive termites stand inherit the throne. In addition, there are future kings and queens, the "winged termites or swarming reproductives." These are mature male and female termites with wings that are released by the colony as potential kings and queens of new termite monarchies.

These swarmers disperse at various times of the year from their parent colony depending on factors like moisture light intensify and temperature. The reproductives then lose their wings, pair off in a favorable site by hollowing out a cell and sealing it from outside, and start a new ' 'queendom.' The cycle goes on and on, so that you can have multiple termite colonies attacking your home all at once.

Fortunately, there is a way to eliminate the entire termite colonies so homeowners won't lose sleep worrying about fertile termite queens and sagging floors.

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Home financing made affordable

OWNING a house has always been a perennial concern for most Filipinos who are primarily discouraged by high financing costs and inaccessibility to financing programs. The Home Suite Loan of East West Bank now takes them closer into making their dream of owning a house into reality.

"We have devised the Home Suite Loan program to give more people access to affordable financing schemes," said Ferdie La Chica, East West Bank vice president for marketing support.

"It gives consumers a very flexible payment mode that takes into account the different financing needs of each client, whether a new home builder or someone who wants to turn their idle assets into money," he added.

The Home Suite Loan has five different loan programs and two payment modes that customers can choose from. Clients have five options to help them come up with the most suitable package depending on which life cycle they are in: LotAcquire, HomeAcquire, HomeConstruct, HomeImprove and the HomeFlex.

They can also choose between the Standard Amortization Payment Scheme and the unique Customer Protect Financing Plan. Funds are available to consumers at an affordable rate for a term of 10 to 15 years depending on the loan program.

On the other hand, the Customer Protect Financing Plan is a unique scheme that makes it easier for customers to project their financing expenses since this predetermines the client's monthly amortization. In effect, it protects clients from interest rate fluctuations until loan maturity. East West Bank has always been attuned to attend to the different consumer demands. "We also realized that pricing alone does not constitute an attractive home loan package," said Winkie Argamaso, East West Bank product officer for Assest.

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For RP's auto firms, there is no turning back

rom page B1

acity in the industry with 2,000.

Dizon said for Japanese assemblers, the Asean Free Trade Area vas more of a vehicle for comple- entation rather than competition.

Most observers say that having vested tons of money putting plants in Thailand, Indonesia, alaysia and the Philippines, panese assemblers are not ex- cted to do a "hara-kiri" and ry each other's markets with cess output.

Dizon said competition in Afta ould be tempered by each ember's desire to achieve a pos- ve trade balance to ensure that c flow of trade would not be- me too skewed against a spe- ic country .

"For Afta to succeed, all coun- es must be able to joy the advantages a single market. ay of the 'Asean 4' n walk out of Afta it feels that it is get- g a short end of deal, and that uld be the end of a," Dizon said.

As automotive ex- utives ponder the ure of their local erations, President acapagal-Arroyo is udying the amend- ents endorsed by e Department of ade and Industry vising the Motor hicle Development ogram. The new ogram will lay own the guideposts o help the industry avigate from the art of Afta next year nd through this mo- entous year.

"There is no turn- g back," said Trade ecretary Manuel oxas II, the govern- ent's chief mechan- overseeing the VDP overhaul. "I elieve the Philip- ine automotive in- ustry is prepared for ore competition om the region, ecifically Thailand d Indonesia, based n its performance in e Aico," Roxas said.

Aico, or the Asean ndustrial Coopera- on program, is a an-Asean produc- on sharing scheme herein the produc- on of a component focused on a single ountry to achieve onomies of scale nd exported at a referred duty of 3 to percent to other sean countries. The hilippines is backing proposal to extend the Aico, which was neant as a precursor rogram to Afta, up o 2010 and grant du- y-free access to their roducts.

But unlike Malay- a, which invoked e Asean Protocol to ntinue its protec- on of its auto sector to 2005, Roxas d the Philippines as all set to liberal- ze its vehicle industry next year.

The government is not giving up on the industry despite its nherent weaknesses ecause of its vast ntribution to the onomy in terms of irect employment 37,000 jobs), in- estments (P40 bil- ion for assembly and 28 billion for parts), axes and duties (P10.7 billion), and exports ($1 billion annually).

The trade department currently rates the auto industry as "marginally competi- ive," with a poten- ial to be competitive f steered in the right direction.

"Our market may be comparatively small to justify auto- notive assembly here, but we think hat if the industry ets the export market both within and outside Asean, their operations would remain viable and relevant in a free market," Roxas said.

No. 2 dollar earner

The DTI is betting that auto exports will soon replace garments and textile as the country's No. 2 dollar earner ($2 billion annually), especially if apparel makers do not shape up in time for the 2005 abolition of market quotas.

To goad assemblers into going overseas, trade officials are coming up with an export subsidy program that will give assemblers a good serving of tax credits for every CBU unit they ship out. This should enable them to enjoy bigger margins on their domestic sales.

While the DTI has decided to focus on CBU exports, Roxas said the new MVDP would continue to push for the development of the auto parts industry by encouraging the world's biggest automakers to take in Filipino partners in setting up their local subsidiaries.

Local parts makers are expected to be hard hit by the government's decision to discontinue its policy of forcing assemblers to buy locally made components.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo has already signed Memorandum Order 51 to phase out local content requirements—35 percent for cars and 40 percent for commercial vehicles—by July 2003 to meet the wishes of the United States, which frowns on this trade related investment measures, or Trims.

The government has also ordered the discontinuation of the tariff preference on knocked-down imports next year, which will be replaced by a tariff schedule that will set a separate duty for each component.

The DTI has promised to impose high tariff walls on auto parts that will be produced locally as long as those who make them agree to invest a minimum amount to bring their operations to world-class levels, and that the fragmented local players take in foreign partners or incoming foreign players take in Filipinos as shareholders.

All locally produced sub-assemblies will get the highest possible tariff, while those available from abroad will be given the lowest possible tariff.

Trade officials reckon that the only way a Filipino auto parts maker will succeed as an original equipment manufacturer will be to hook up with a foreign carmaker or its allies to gain access to both technology and market.

A sham

Without a parallel development in the auto parts sector, CBU exports will be a sham because the country will remain just an assembly point for vehicles if most of its parts are built abroad. At present, only 200 parts of a vehicle's estimated 2,000 components are produced locally.

The Philippines may be opened up to Asean assemblers, but the DTI will maintain its blockade of CBU imports from outside the region.

The DTI has already committed to restructure the country's most favored nation (MFN) tariff rates (for non-Asean countries) on auto imports that are scheduled to fall to 5 percent by 2004 from the present range of 20 to 30 percent.

A briefing paper given to industry players showed the DTI's plan to raise MFN duty on CBUs to as high as 50 percent. This will give assemblers more time—up to 2010—to, focus on keeping up with their neighbors while holding at bay more serious competition from the United States or Japan.

The trade department is hoping that these reforms will drive the auto industry output to 250,000 units by 2006, with domestic sales back to its 1996 peak of 162,097 and CBU exports reaching a little over 80,000. Though modest by Thai, Indonesian and Malaysian standards, the export projections are substantial for the Philippines, which has practically no CBU export (only 94 units were shipped out in 2000). *(To be continued)*

The Filipino People's Urgent Message to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

RESCIND THE PIATCO CONTRACT NOW!

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Piatco, the malevolent force, has been completely unmasked! Piatco officials' moves are acts of desperation. The million-dollar "PR" man, Alfonso Liongson, is in hiding. Their multi-million peso bagman, Manny Cuevas, has mysteriously disappeared.

An important witness, Venner Mendoza, has been "sequestered" by a powerful religious bloc. Piatco's brazen attempt to hide the imperfect crime has been exposed to its utter shame.

Piatco evaded paying multimillion pesos in taxes.

Too many illegal provisions have effectively rendered the Piatco Contract null and void. The Piatco Contract, subjected to a fine-toothed comb by Secretary Gloria Tan-Climaco and your trusted lawyers, yielded at least 28 illegal and onerous provisions, violating the Philippine Constitution, Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) and other Laws.

The Piatco Contract is the worst ever. The hearings at the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee have revealed the illegal nature of the contract.

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US port talks break down, crisis escalates

SAN FRANCISCO—Talks aimed at ending a crippling lockout at US West Coast ports broke down on Sunday, escalating an economic crisis and raising expectations that the Bush administration will be forced to intervene.

Officials at the Pacific Maritime Association, which represents port employers, and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union left Sunday's marathon negotiating session with no agreement—meaning 29 West Coast ports from San Diego to Seattle will remain closed on Monday for the eighth consecutive day.

"We thought common sense would prevail," PMA spokesperson Steve Sugerman said.

Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Director Peter Hurtgen, who had sought to broker the four days of talks, said there was no immediate schedule to resume them.

He added that he saw a "good possibility" that the collapse of the talks might prompt US President George W. Bush to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act in an effort to force the ports back into business.

The lockout of ports handling $300 billion in trade has raised widespread fears of new disruptions in the faltering US economy.

The PMA ordered the current lockout on Sept. 29 after accusing the 10,500-member union of staging illegal work slowdowns as contract talks bogged down on the issues of jobs and new port technology. *Reuters*

Threat of war could slow down global trade talks

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—The threat of war in the Middle East threatens to slow the progress of global trade talks already hindered by sharp differences between rich and poor nations, Malaysia's trade minister said Monday.

Amid growing uncertainty about the world's economic outlook, Rafidah Aziz also said Asian nations should further lower trade barriers among themselves to help the region catch up with the West.

With economies slumping, oil prices hovering at around $30 per barrel and many nations concerned that US President George W. Bush will order an attack on Iraq to topple President Saddam Hussein, many top Asian political and business figures say the region should find ways to better stand on its own.

Efforts by the World Trade Organization to further liberalize global trade will be hurt by the current uncertainties facing the economy, Rafidah told the East Asia Economic Summit, organized by the World Economic Forum.

That poses further troubles to world trade negotiations that frequently have been troubled by lingering concerns among poor nations that market-opening measures will mainly favor the rich traders, she said.

"Nobody is going to open the market if they are not sure whether their domestic economy is going to be destructed," Rafidah said at the three-day conference, which closes Tuesday.

A more immediate concern for many Asian exporters is the shutdown of ports on the US West Coast in a labor dispute. The United States is a huge buyer of Asian goods and many Asian executives worry that a prolonged lockout of the dock workers will leave them without enough of a market for their products as the peak winter holiday season approaches.

"We haven't got the figures in but I'm sure it will affect everybody," Rafidah said. "That's only the strike. I am afraid if we have a war, it's going to be worse for everybody that is to do business with the United States."

During Sunday's opening sessions there were plenty of calls for greater Asian economic unity.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra noted that the "twin calamities" of the Asian financial crisis in 1997-98 and the Sept. 11 attacks were "choking the two main growth engines of the world, the United States and Japan." *AP*

Moreover, Piatco officials have shown indifference to the effort in digging deeper into the truth. Ranking legislators made these statements:

"I want to know if these individuals are financially capable, that they are legitimate investors and not dummies." — **Senate President Franklin Drilon** (*The Philippine Star*, September 4, 2002, referring to the Cheng Yong group.)

"There is this mystery of how a group which contributed only US$16 million (to) the project can lord it over the one who paid US$409 million." — **Sen. Joker Arroyo** (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*, September 4, 2002)

"This was the worst contract I've ever seen. It's like (PIATCO) was given a blank check. It was open-ended from the beginning." — **Sen. Serge Osmeña III** (*People's Journal*, September 18, 2002)

Even the Germans want the Chengs out. And, unless the government rescinds the Contract, we will look like a nation of thieves to the international investment community – courtesy of the Chengs. World-renowned airport builder and manager Fraport of Germany wants out of the graft-ridden partnership with the Chengs. The Germans are frustrated at and angry over the Chengs' acts of overpricing, collection of commissions and other questionable practices.

Our countrymen are appalled by the government's indecision over a "clear and present danger." Piatco is in a hurry to open Terminal III. Because, when it does, it shall have gained incontestable advantage over the government. From that day on, under the Contract, Piatco is in complete control. When it defaults, it is the government's fault – and the government must pay big.

Under the menacing shadow of labor protests over threats to thousands of jobs, grave concerns for safety and security have been aired by the Air Transportation Office (ATO) and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the face of threats of world terrorism. An international airport terminal is required to have FAA security clearance. Terminal III does not have one. One thing is sure: *Piatco is a "clear and present danger."*

Before you lose the initiative to vested interests ...

Before other more urgent events hound you ...

Before new exposés shake your Administration ...

Madame President:

One decisive act is clearer more than ever. You have the advantage now. Use it before you lose it.

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Nikkei ends at 19-yr low

TOKYO—Tokyo stocks crumbled to a fresh 19-year low on Monday in their biggest one-day slide since June, as investors sold banks and debt-ridden borrowers, such as Daiei Inc., on fears of a wave of corporate failures.

The benchmark Nikkei 225-stock average finished down 3.76 percent at 8,688, its lowest close since June 16, 1983, and the biggest one-day fall since June 26.

The broader, capital-weighted TOPIX index of all first-section issues was down 3.49 percent at 860.47.

Monday's falls came as investors factored in a near-term scenario of big company failures and high unemployment if the government adopts a tougher stance on bad loans.

Toyota Motor Corp. and other blue-chip exporters also retreated after a slide in US stocks and fears of a double-dip recession in Japan's biggest export market, which have grown in part due to a crippling port lockout on the US West Coast.

The lockout, which has virtually halted vital trans-Pacific shipping lanes as it stretches into a second week, comes as sentiment on Wall Street is already strained by worries over a US-led war in Iraq.

"Sentiment is really shot right now," said Koichi Seki, equity manager at Chuo Securities.

"Investors are scared of the impact of rising bankruptcies.

And on top of that, worries of a war in Iraq and a slowdown in the US economy are really weighing."

Japan's top automaker Toyota, which idled assembly lines at its Fremont, California, plant last week due to the lockout, was down 2.6 percent at 3,000 yen.

Toshiba Corp., Japan's biggest chip maker, tumbled 6.59 percent to 312 yen.

Investors will be focused on a nationally televised speech by President George W. Bush on Iraq set for Monday night in the United States.

Volume was brisk, with 834.45 million shares changing hands on Tokyo's main board, the biggest total in three weeks. *Reuters*

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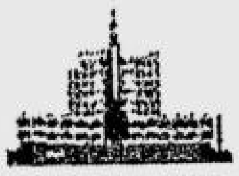

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CARS FOR RENT

TOYCO TRANS SELF DRIVE CARS/VANS RENTALS 8006595

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1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 6966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

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2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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AUCTION SALE

FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, INC. 1137 P. Gil St. Paco, Mla. Will sell all expired pledges left during the months of February and March 2002 on OCTOBER 20, 2002, Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer.

NOTICE OF LOSS

UNIVERSAL REALTY DEVELOPMENT CORP. STOCK CERTIFICATE WITH NO. 31 FOR 167 SHARES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF HERBERT U. UY WAS DECLARED LOST. IF NO CONTEST RECEIVED WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE NEW CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED
PDI-SEPT. 24, OCT. 1 & 8, 2002

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Jacks-in-the-deck

Q. There are Kings, Queens, and Jokers in a deck of cards, but why are there Jacks?

A. Etymologically, jack derives from the Old English *chafa*, meaning 'boy, male child.' But the clue to the identity of the jack is its alternate name, *knave*. A knave was a servant of royalty, so it is no accident that in a deck of cards, the jack is the lowest-ranked picture card. Later, knave assumed negative connotations, including 'deceitfulness.' But knavery is usually associated with rascality, which probably explains why the jack is often wild in poker games.

For the Record. Bridge, the card game, is believed to have originated in Turkey, where the rules of the game were compiled around 1885 by John Collinson, an English visitor to Constantinople (later Istanbul). The game is a battle between two camps, hence the name 'bridge,' since each player is partnered by the player sitting opposite. Bridge actually derived from whist, a card game of British origin and described for the first time in 1743.

Ooops! Because of its name, and because the Chinese seem to have a particular talent for it, many assume that Ping Pong was invented in China. In fact, Ping Pong was invented by British army officers stationed in India in the 1880s. Its real name is table tennis; Ping Pong is the registered name (1891) of a company that makes table tennis equipment. Like many other catchy product names -- Kleenex, Xerox, Kodak -- it has entered the language as a generic expression.

WORD WATCH

Ping Pong : from the sounds made by a table tennis ball when hit.

PDI -- October 8, 2002

POEA
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722-1144
722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
SELECTED AIRPORT (TRUNKLINE) DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Special Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (SPBAC)

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW:

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (DOTC) THROUGH THE DOTC - ACTION CENTER WISHES TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ➢ IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CLEAN AIR ACT OF 1999 AND IN ORDER TO ABATE THE CONTINUOUS EMISSION OF HARMFUL POLLUTANTS INTO THE AIR, THE DOTC ENFORCED THE MANDATORY VEHICLE EMISSION COMPLIANCE TEST IN METRO MANILA FOR PURPOSES OF VEHICLE RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2002.
- ➢ THAT THE MANDATORY VEHICLE EMISSION TEST IS CONDUCTED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS/ DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DOTC/DTI) ACCREDITED AND AUTHORIZED PRIVATE EMISSION TESTING CENTERS (PETC's) IN METRO MANILA.
- ➢ FREE EMISSION COMPLIANCE TESTING WAS CONDUCTED IN METRO MANILA FROM OCTOBER 1-7, 2002.
- ➢ STARTING TODAY, OCTOBER 8, 2002, PETC's WILL BE CHARGING EMISSION COMPLIANCE TESTS CONDUCTED.
- ➢ EMISSION TESTING FEES SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE PETC'S.
- ➢ THAT THE EMISSION COMPLIANCE TESTS WILL BE REQUIRED ON ALL VEHICLES FOR RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION AND FOR THOSE THAT WAS APPREHENDED IN VIOLATION OF THE ANTI-SMOKE BELCHING LAW.
- ➢ THAT THE CERTIFICATE OF EMISSION COMPLIANCE (CEC) SHALL BE ISSUED TO VEHICLES THAT PASSES THE EMISSION TEST.
- ➢ THAT THE CERTIFICATE OF EMISSION COMPLIANCE (CEC) IS VALID FOR 60 DAYS FROM THE TIME THE TEST IS CONDUCTED.
- ➢ THAT THE CERTIFICATE OF EMISSION COMPLIANCE (CEC) IS ALSO VALID TO REDEEM IMPOUNDED VEHICLES AND/OR CONFISCATED LICENSE PLATES THAT VIOLATED THE ANTI-SMOKE BELCHING LAW IN ADDITION TO PAYMENT OF FINES.
- ➢ THAT THE LTO WILL NOT RENEW THE REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES WITHOUT THE CERTIFICATE OF EMISSION COMPLIANCE (CEC).
- ➢ THAT VEHICLE/S OWNERS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THEIR VEHICLE/S FOR EMISSION COMPLIANCE TESTING AT THE ACCREDITED AND AUTHORIZED PRIVATE EMISSION TESTING CENTERS (LISTED BELOW) PRIOR TO REGISTRATION AT THE LTO.
- ➢ THAT THE EMISSION TESTS MAY BE CONDUCTED WITHIN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION.
- ➢ THAT THE RESULT OF EMISSION TEST WILL BE WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE FIRST TEST AND SHALL BE PRESENTED TO THE LTO MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION OFFICES AS PREREQUISITE TO RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION.
- ➢ THAT THE MANDATORY EMISSION COMPLIANCE TESTS COVERS ALL MOTOR VEHICLES INCLUDING MOTORCYCLES.
- ➢ THAT MOBILE EMISSION TESTERS OF PETC's WILL ALSO BE DEPLOYED AT ALL LTO DISTRICT OFFICES IN METRO MANILA.
- ➢ THAT VEHICLE OWNERS CAN HAVE THEIR VEHICLE/S TESTED AT ANY OF THE DOTC/DTI ACCREDITED AND AUTHORIZED PRIVATE EMISSION TESTING CENTERS.
- ➢ FOR OTHERS DETAILS AND COMPLAINTS PLEASE CALL DOTC HOTLINE 7890.

LIST OF DOTC/DTI ACCREDITED AND AUTHORIZED PRIVATE EMISSION TESTING CENTERS (PETCs) IN METRO MANILA.

1. **MAPLE EMISSION TEST CENTER**
   Block 1 Lot 7 & 8 Soldiers Hills
   Brgy. Putatan, Muntinlupa City

   Maple is also conducting vehicle emission test at:
   a) Palayan Road, FTI Complex, Taguig
2. **ROYJUL'S EMISSION CENTER**
   370 Mayon St., Quezon City
3. **BOHER EMISSION TEST CENTER, INC.**
   Maysilo St., Mandaluyong City
4. **TOWER EMISSION TEST CENTER, INC.**
   Jomon Bldg., Brixton St., Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City
5. **BSC EMISSION TEST CENTER**
   102 Samson Road, Kalookan City
   BSC is also conducting vehicle emission test at:
   a) Rolljon Cockpit Parking Area, Parañaque City
   b) Beside LTO, Talon, Las Piñas City
6. **EUROLAB PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL CORP.**
   16 V. Luna corner Matatag St., Diliman, Quezon City
   Eurolab is also conducting vehicle emission tests at:
   a) 103 P. Tuazon St., Cubao, Quezon City
   b) 2 Pasadeña St. Corner N. Paterno, San Juan, Metro Manila
   c) 31 Sunrise St., Tambo, Parañaque City
   d) Lot 3A, Beside Las Piñas City Hall, Zapote Road, Las Piñas City
   e) 21 E. Rodriguez St., Quezon City
7. **MANCOR INDUSTRIES, INC.**
   42 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City
8. **SIGNET DISTRIBUTORS, INC.**
   Signet, Bldg., 79 EDSA, Mandaluyong City
9. **DIAMOND MOTORS**
   41, Boni Serano Avenue, Quezon City
10. **CITIMOTORS INC.**
    Pasong Tamo corner Don Bosco Streets, Makati City
11. **CITIMOTORS INC.**
    Zapote-Alabang Road corner Real Streets, Pamplona, Las Piñas
12. **JOANGELA EMISSION TEST CENTERS CO.**
    Blk. 1, Lot 2, Gov. Pascual Ave., Brgy. Catmon, Malabon City
13. **LOTTEX, INC.**
    No. 1, Rizal Avenue, Taytay Rizal
    Lottex is also conducting vehicle emission test at:
    a) Phoenix Sun, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Quezon City
14. **PINRA EMISSION TEST CENTER**
    714 D. Santiago St., Balic-Balic, Sampaloc, Manila
15. **RENYGALE EMISSION TEST CENTER**
    Km. 14, MacArthur Highway, Malinta, Valenzuela

(PDI--October 7, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
MANILA

INVITATION TO BID

Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of 4th quarter, *Office and Printing supplies and materials for the Supreme Court.*

The approved budget for the contract is FOUR MILLION FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY NINE PESOS (P4,429,299.00) chargeable against the current appropriations of the Supreme Court for supplies and materials.

Prospective suppliers/dealers who have not been previously pre-qualified may secure pre-qualification requirements and bid documents from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, OAS, 4th Floor Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, after payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).**

I. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All pre-qualification requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on **October 23, 2002** at exactly 1:00 p.m., 4th Floor Multi-purpose Hall, SC Room #3.

II. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The pre-bid conference of pre-qualified bidders shall be on **October 30, 2002** at 10:00 a.m., 4th Floor Multi-purpose Hall, SC.

III. OPENING OF BIDS

Only bids of pre-qualified bidders who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives on **November 6, 2002** at 2:00 p.m., 4th Floor Multi-purpose Hall, SC.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

September 27, 2002.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(October 1 & 8, 2002)

Philippine Tourism Authority
MANILA

INVITATION to PREQUALIFY/APPLY for ELIGIBILITY and to BID

The **PHILIPPINE TOURISM AUTHORITY** invites interested Contractors indigenous or based in **REGION XII** pre-qualify/apply for Eligibility and to bid for the construction of the following projects at the herein specified locations:

1. Restrooms with Tourist & Police Information Counter
   1.1 Brgy. Poblacion, Carmen, North Cobatabo
   1.2 North Cotabato
   1.3 Iligan City Public Plaza, Aguinaldo St., Poblacion, Lanao Del Norte
2. Viewdeck with Restrooms
   2.1 Kapatagan, Lanao Del Norte

BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Approved Budget (Total)	CATEGORY & CLASSIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS' LICENSE	ISSUANCE/ SUBMISSION OF PRE-C	ISSUANCE OF BID/TENDER DOCUMENTS	PRE-BIDDING CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION /OPENING OF BIDS
P1,725,000.00 527,652.00 P2,252,652.00	License Particular: Gen. Engineering Registration Particulars: Building Small B	Oct. 22-24 2002 October 29, 2002	November 13-15, 2002	November 21, 2002 2:00 PM	November 28,2002 10:00 AM/ 2:00 PM

The estimated cost to construct either the Restrooms with Tourist & Police Information Counter and Viewdeck with Restrooms is P575,000.00 and P527,652.00 respectively.

The **ITEMS OF WORK / SCOPE OF WORKS** includes furnishing of labor and materials in the construction of the above-mentioned projects.

Pre-qualification documents shall be available for issuance upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P50.00 and presentation of a ***Letter of Intent*** and original copy of contractor's license at the BAC Secretariat Office located at Room 621 of the Department of Tourism Bldg., T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila with Telephone Numbers 524-28-70 or 525-30-20.

Bid document shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders only upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,500.00.

Submission of Bids shall be at the BAC Secretariat (Room 621), DOT Bldg. not later than the above-mentioned schedule.

The PTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ADEL L. ORIONDO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 8, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 17, MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF CORRECTION OF AN ERRONEOUS ENTRY IN THE MARRIAGE CONTRACT OF SPOUSES RUBEN MALABANAN AND EVELYN CUENCA MALABANAN AND THE PARISH PRIEST OF SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH,
Petitioners,

SP PROC. NO. 02-102596

- versus -

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MANILA AS FORMAL PARTY RESPONDENT,
Respondent.

x-----------------------------x

ORDER

To rectify the date in regard to the date of the nuptial betwixt Ruben Malabanan and Evelyn Cuenca Malabanan, from November 28, 1981 to November 20, 1981 as reflected on their "Marriage Contract" (Register No. 1530 [K-81]), the supplication therefor was intiated by the petitioners on January 14, 2002 (paragraphs 1-10, Petition dated January 07, 2002; Annex "A" - "C").

Upon issuance of the incipient Order of March 5, 2002 from then Acting Presiding Judge Rodolfo A. Ponferrada with respect to the publication thereof in a newspaper of general circulation, counsel for the petitioner expressed his inability to comply therewith as a result of financial constraints to meet the publication cost of the Philippine Daily Inquirer ("Urgent Ex Parte Motion/ Request for a Re-Raffle of Newspaper" dated May 20, 2002; Section 4, Rule 129, Section 2(a), Rule 131, Revised Rules on Evidence) followed by an analogous motion on June 13, 2002. Nonetheless, action thereon was held in abeyance per the Order of August 23, 2002.

As a consequence of counsel for petitioners' "Ex Parte Motion to Set the Case for Hearing and to Order Publication Thereof" on September 2, 2002, consistent with Section 4, Rule 108 of the Revised Rules of Court, let a copy of this Order be published, at the petitioner's expense, for three (3) consecutive weeks on the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Meanwhile, the hearing relative to the jurisdictional facts of the "Petition" is hereby slated on November 18, 2002, Monday, at 8:30 in the morning.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Manila, September 11, 2002

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO B. PERALTA, JR.**
Presiding Judge

(PDI--Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2002)

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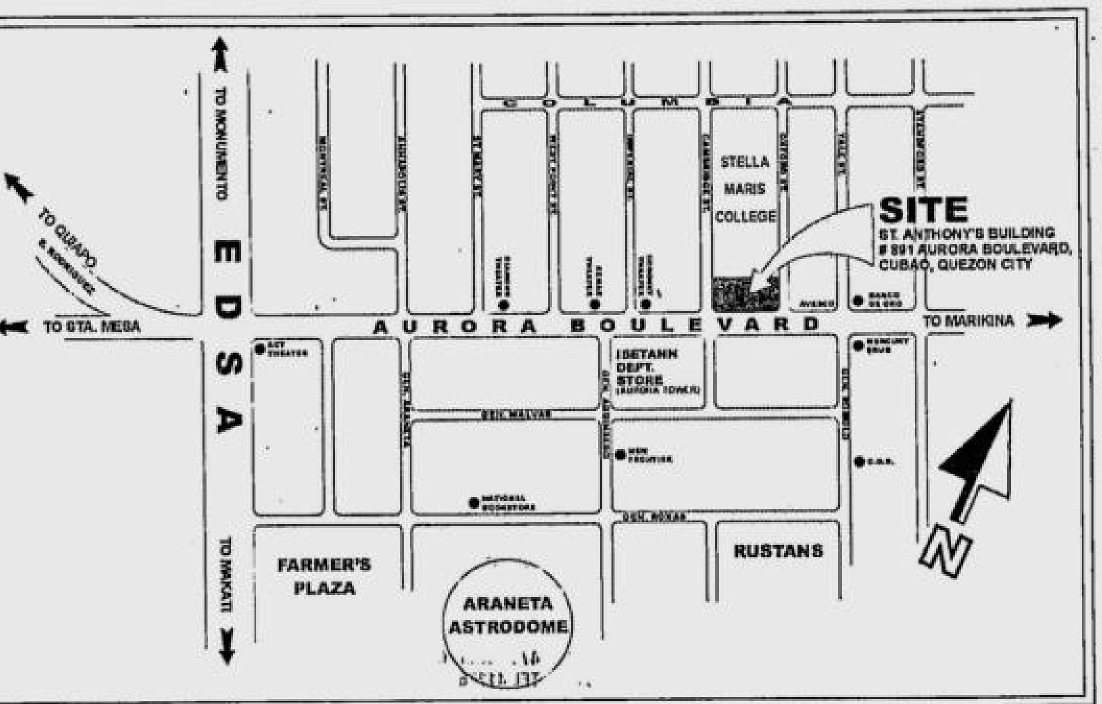

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In Loving Memory
On the 1st Death Anniversary of

VIRGILIO "TATAY" P. MOZO, SR.

Retired Director, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
April 28, 1929 — October 8, 2001

His wife and children request relatives, friends and pious readers to include "Tatay" in their prayers.

Masses will be offered today at the following churches.

6:00 am	Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy Sikatuna Village, Quezon City
	Monasterio De Sta. Clara Katipunan Ave., Quezon City
	The Saint Joseph Convent (Pink Sisters) Dona Hemady, Quezon City
6:30 am	Carmel of St. Therese Gilmore Ave., Quezon City
7:00 am	Mount Carmel Shrine New Manila, Quezon City
7:45 am	St. Columban Church Dalgan Park, Ireland
8:00 am	St. Agnes Church Dublin, Ireland
8:15 am	Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Irwindale, CA USA
8:30 am	St. Mary's Parish Buffalo Drive, III USA
9:15 am	St. Anne's Parish Custom House, London
9:30 am	Our Lady of Immaculate Catholic Church Limehouse, London
12:00 nn	St. Anselm's Chapel Cliftonville, Kent England
5:15 pm	St. Joseph, The Worker Sasa, Davao City
5:30 pm	The Redemptorist Church Bajada, Davao City
6:00 pm	Sacred Heart Parish Kamuning, Quezon City
6:30 pm	Holy Family Parish Kamias, Quezon City

Sunday, October 13, 2002

11:30 am	Saints Austin and Gregory Parish Kent, England

Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late

ADELA L. BUENSUCESO

Who joined her Maker on September 30, 2002

Wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who condoled with us during our hour of grief – those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, sent messages of sympathy, and attended the funeral rites.

To all of you, our sincerest thanks.

AMADO "MADS" C. PEREZ

Of Montalban, Rizal

Former Director of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Born: November 27, 1928 - Died: October 6, 2002

His loving wife **Rowena**; daughter **Fideliz "Chinette"**; son-in-law, **Jovy Macaspac** and grandson **Adriel** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state in his residence at Lot 2, Block 1, Mayon Street, Montana Village, Burgos, Montalban Rizal.

Cremation will be on Thursday, October 10, 2002, 9:00 a.m. at the Loyola Marikina.

> **"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."** 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) invites prospective bidders to Bid for the following:

1. 120,000 doses FMD MONOVALENT VACCINE IN OIL ADJUVANT W/ 01 MANISA OR 01 PHILIPPINES

Specifications:

1. Must contain the 01 Manisa type/subtype 01 Manisa or 01 Philippines;
2. That the vaccine is subjected to internationally-accepted sterility, innocuity and potency test;
3. Note: Administration 1 or 2 ml. per shot;
4. Bottle label must indicate vaccine components, rate of administration, batch or lot no., date of manufacture, expiry date and;
5. Vaccine expiry requirement at least one (1) year from the date of delivery;
6. Must indicate in the label or as a sticker the following; GOVERNMENT PROPERTY, NOT FOR SALE.

Bid documents are available for issuance to interested bidders from **Oct. 1, 2002** at the **BAI-FIAHPP, BAC Office, BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Look for Lolit M. Razon or Mengie C. Magpantay.**

Opening of bids will be on **Oct. 18, 2002** and all bids must be submitted not later than 10:00 a.m. at the **BAI-FIAHPP Conference Room, BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.** Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope and will be opened in the presence of the bidders.

Bidders are requested to submit a bidder's bond, either in cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check Bank Draft/Guarantee in an amount equivalent to but not less than 1% of the total approved budget cost for the contract or 2.5% for GSIS Surety Bond. Approved Budget cost (P 2,700,000.00).

The Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids or waive any defects or informality therein, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

Very truly yours,
For the Director of Animal Industry

(Sgd.) **VICTOR C. ATIENZA, DVM, FRVC**
BAC-Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 8 & 16, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
'AMANG' RODRIGUEZ MEDICAL CENTER
Marikina City
"PHIC accredited health care provider"

HOSPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (HIBAC)

September 25, 2002

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The 'Amang' Rodriguez Medical Center ('A' RMC) thru the Hospital Bids and Awards Committee (HIBAC) is inviting bids from Accredited Contractors of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category of "AA" and registration of "Large A" for Building and Industrial Plant for the Project: Completion of the Three (3) Floors of the Proposed Six (6) Storey Main Hospital Building, Phase III.

The dates to be followed are:

1. Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (bring Original Copies of Contractor's License) and Issuance of Eligibility Documents		October 1-11, 2002
2. Submission of Duly Accomplished Eligibility Documents		October 16, 2002
3. Posting of Eligible Contractors		October 23, 2002
4. Issuance of Bid Tender Documents		October 24-25, 2002
5. Pre-bid Conference		November 14, 2002
6. Submission of Bids (deadline)	10:00 AM	December 23, 2002
7. Opening of Bids	10:30 AM	December 23, 2002

All of the above activities shall be held at the 'A' RMC Conference Room, Second Floor, Administrative Building.

The complete set of bid tender documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of twelve thousand pesos (P12,000.00).

HIBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by HIBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The HIBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that maybe incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost for the project will be announced during the Pre-Bid Conference.

(Sgd.) **RODOLFO P. GREGORIO, M.D.**
Chairman, HIBAC

(PDI – Sept. 30 & Oct. 8, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC)
City Government of Cabanatuan

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

Date: September 24, 2002

1. The City Government of Cabanatuan invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Materials, Labor and Equipment for the proposed construction of the Cesar F. Vergara Bridge, details are as follows:

Location:	Barangays Sumacab Norte and Talipapa, City of Cabanatuan	
Brief Description:	Length	510.80 lm
	Carriageway:	10.50 m w/ 2 - 0.76 m sidewalk
	No. of Span:	17 @ 30 lm/span
	Superstructure:	Reinforced Concrete Deck Slab on P/S Type IV B Girder
	Substructure:	Bored Piles (2 - 1.80 diameter/ pier-abutment)
Source of Fund:	Locally Funded	

Required PCAB Registration and Classification: "AAA" with specialization on Bridge Construction

2. Bidding documents may be purchased at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office (CPDO), City Hall, Cabanatuan City for a non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) which are available during office hours from October 15 to November 15, 2002. Interested qualified bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
3. Deadline for submission of Pre-qualification Statements shall be on or before November 29, 2002.
4. Pre-bid conference will be held at the Conference Room, City Mayor's Office, City Hall, Cabanatuan City on November 29, 2002 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning.
5. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of not less than two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the bid price in the form of Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check or Irrevocable Letter of Credit from a reputable Bank, and shall be delivered to the above mentioned address on or before 10:00 a.m., 20 December 2002, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
6. The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders or any obligation to inform the affected Bidder or Bidders of the grounds for the Employer's action.
7. The proposed construction of the Cesar F. Vergara Bridge shall be implemented thru a turn-key scheme.

(SGD.) **JULIUS CESAR V. VERGARA**
City Mayor

(PDI--Sept. 24, Oct. 1 & 8, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC)
City Government of Cabanatuan

INVITATION TO LEASE

Date: September 24, 2002

1. In line with the policy of the State to encourage the private sector as the nation's main engine for growth and development, the Local Government of Cabanatuan City would like to pursue the same principle by offering some assets for privatization. Thus, we are offering the private sector the opportunity to operate and manage our City Transport Terminal.

   Pursuant City Resolution No. 312-2001 dated December 19, 2001 and City Resolution No. 291-2002 dated July 10 2002 the City Government of Cabanatuan is offering the public to lease our City Transport Terminal. The said terminal is located in a 2.5-hectare commercial lot along Circumferential Road and it houses the following:

   - 30 bus berths
   - 56 mini-bus berths
   - 58 jeepney berths
   - 160 units Commercial Stalls for dry goods
   - 60 units Commercial Stalls for fruit and vegetable section
   - 36 units Commercial Stalls for meat section
   - 21 units Commercial Stalls for fish section
   - 30 units of Office and Commercial spaces
   - 78 units of Wholesale Market spaces
   - Parking Spaces for 14 buses, 90 mini-buses, and 58 jeepneys/private vehicles

2. Terms and Conditions:

Term:	25 years
Goodwill:	Php 25,000,000.00 Non-Refundable
Advance Payment:	Php 22,000,000.00 as advance rental
Annual Rental:	PhP 22,000,000.00 to be divided and paid equally on a monthly basis

3. Interested parties must submit their expression of interest together with documents detailing their financial capability.
4. Document must be contained in a sealed envelope properly identified as "LETTER OF INTENT TO LEASE THE CITY TRANSPORT TERMINAL" to the Office of the PBAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office (CPDO), City Hall, Cabanatuan City on or before October 31, 2002.

(SGD.) **JULIUS CESAR V. VERGARA**
City Mayor

(PDI--Sept. 24, Oct. 1 & 8, 2002)

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
LIFESTYLE
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Personal observations on how the Chinese stay slim

Despite eating fatty pig's knuckles, roasted duck and fried rice, the Chinese burn up the calories through physical activity

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

TWO weeks ago, I went to Shanghai with my husband, two kids, and business associates to attend a fitness forum. Since it was our first time in China (not counting Hong Kong), we decided that we would sample as much Chinese food as we could.

By the second to the last day, half of the group already dreaded having to fulfill our commitment. It's not that they didn't find the food delicious; it was that they found it too oily. We ate in restaurants where we were usually the only foreigners. Obviously, it's the way the locals like their food.

Being fitness-conscious, a discussion started about how the Chinese manage to stay slim with such oily food. Most of the food choices offered on the menus were fried or sautéed. Even their vegetables, while fresh and crisp, were invariably shiny with oil. And yet, we hardly saw any overweight people during our five-day trip.

Here are our personal observations on how the Chinese stay slim. This is not a complete analysis because we were not able to observe how they eat at home.

Small portions

The first thing we noticed was that the serving portions were small. In the restaurants, the serving platter sizes were half a regular dinner plate. We ate on small plates the size of what we normally use for dessert back here. Weight loss experts say that the bigger the plate you use, the greater the tendency to fill it up with food.

The individual rice bowls given to us were small. My eyeball estimate was that it was exactly half a cup. Most Filipino restaurants will give you the equivalent of one to two cups and call it a "cup of rice." Our male companions would have to order three to four of those tiny Shanghai rice cups to satisfy their appetites.

I also noticed that the packed lunches of vendors in the flea market contained relatively small portions. The only place we got Western-size portions was in the hotel where we would eat breakfast. So my daughter and I would split our breakfasts.

On my last day, I ordered a Shanghainese breakfast of hot sweet soy milk and a twisted doughnut. Both the bowl of soy milk and the doughnut were gigantic. I had seen the street version the day before, and it was one-third the size. My daughter did not want to share it with me but I didn't think I would be tempted to overeat because, I thought, "There is no way I am going to be able to finish this."

I was wrong. My taste buds got the better of me and I had to make a conscious decision halfway when it became clear that if the waiter did not take this delicious thing away from me soon, it would quickly disappear into my stomach. Unfortunately, our stomachs and appetites tend to adjust very quickly to large portions. Remember the tagline of the movie, "Field of Dreams," "If you build it, they will come"? Well, in relation to food, it is "If they put it in front of you, you will finish it."

Our last observation is a long shot, and there is no scientific evidence I know to back it up, but maybe one of their "secrets" is that they use chopsticks. I know the Chinese are extremely agile with their chopsticks but perhaps you can shovel a lot more food into your mouth in a shorter amount of time with spoon and fork. So by using chopsticks, maybe the Chinese feel full faster and stop eating any further.

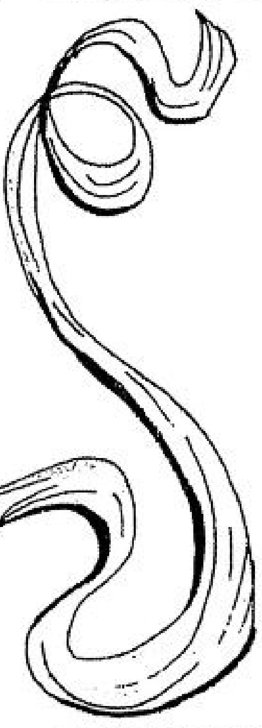
Fruits

We noticed a lot of people eating fruits—in the restaurants, on the streets (they were being sold by street vendors), and believe it or not, in the hotel disco and bar. It's hard to imagine having fruit as *pulutan* but that's what they were having. Fruits have a lot of fiber and water and make excellent snacks because they fill you up.

Tea

Drinking tea is as Chinese a custom as you can find. Almost everyone in the restaurants drank tea with their meals. Store owners had their personal teapots tucked away in a corner. Taxi drivers would have jars of it beside them as they drove. Street vendors even sold bottled commercial versions. This is the whole point of all this tea drinking. While we drink sweet iced tea mixes (90 calories), softdrinks (150 calories), smoothies and specialty coffee concoctions (200-400 calories), the Chinese are drinking zero-calorie tea. Some studies suggest that green tea can raise the metabolism by four percent but even discounting this, the fact alone that tea has zero calories is a big calorie saving for the Chinese. The moral of the story is—if you want to lose

PERSONAL/ p.C3



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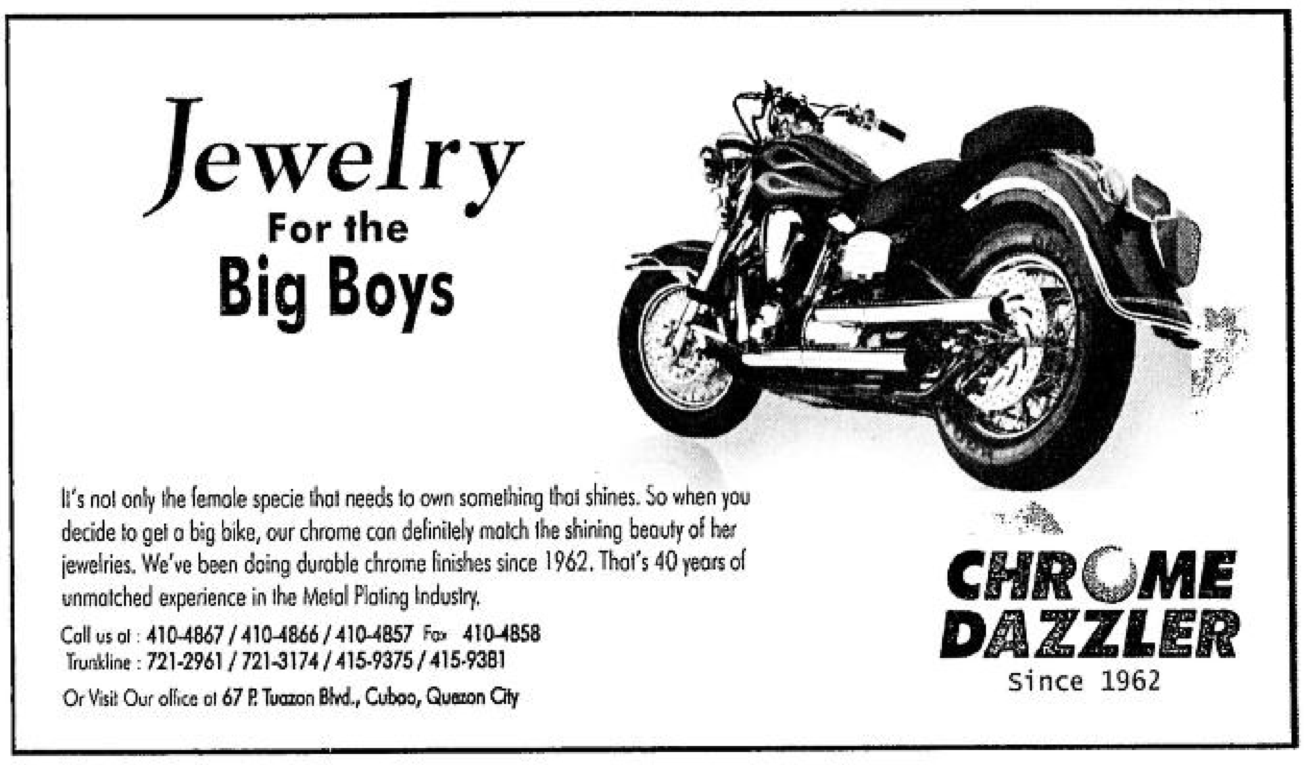
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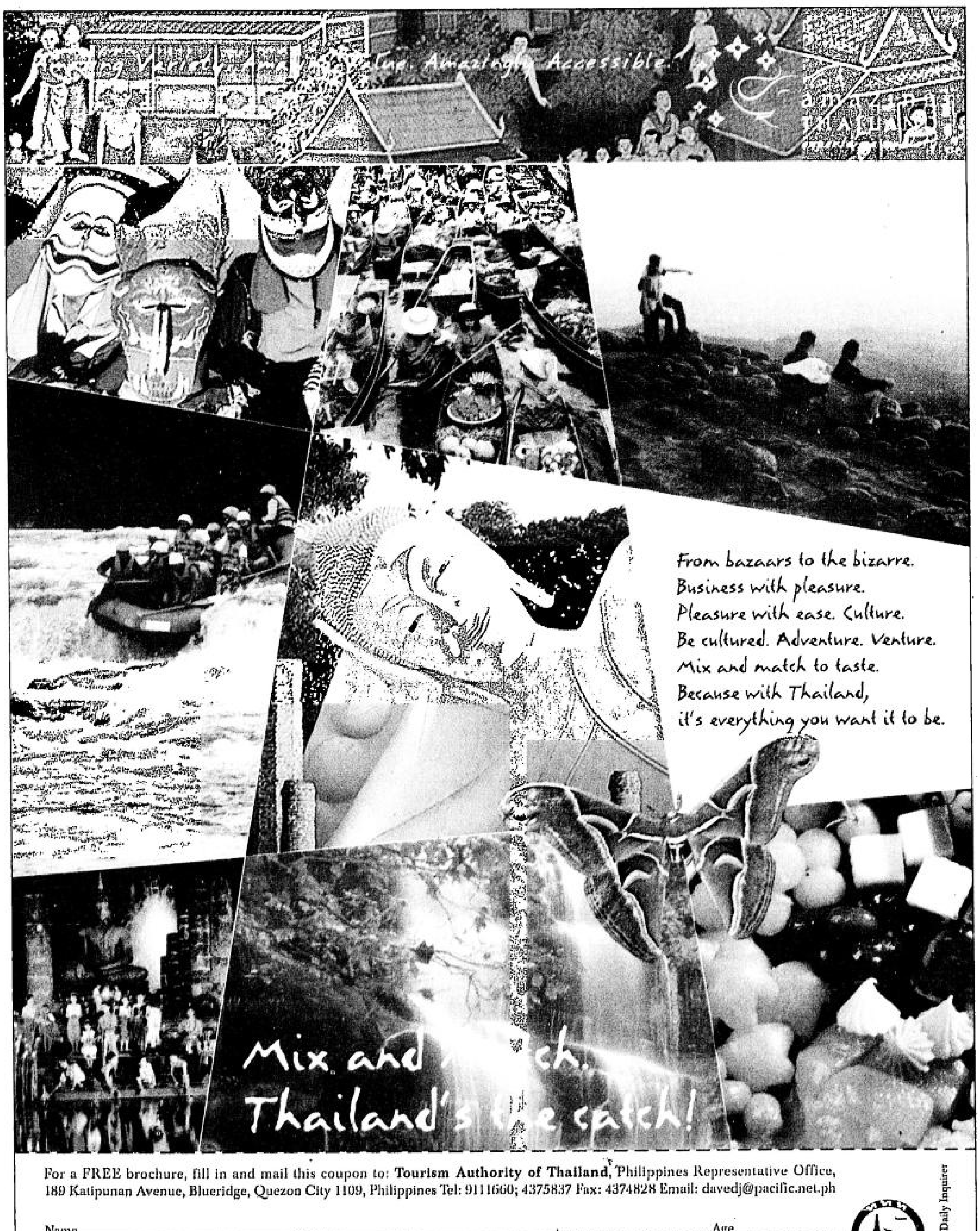

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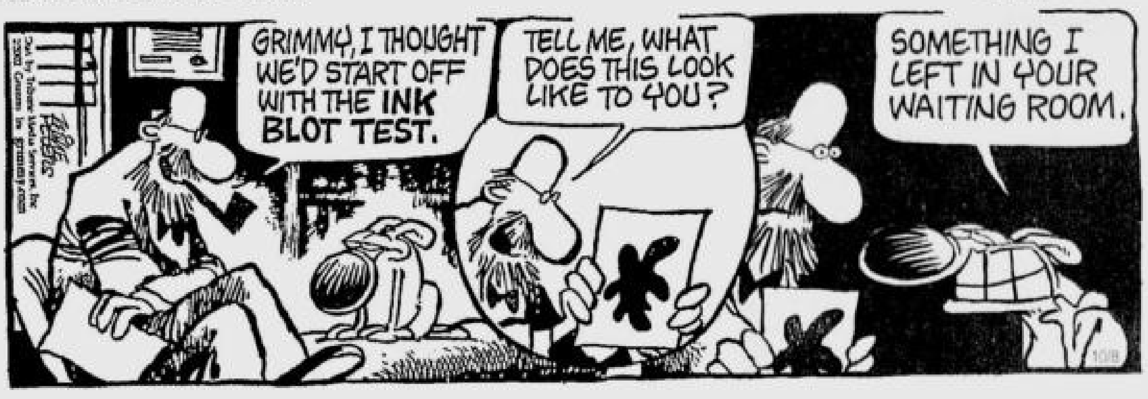
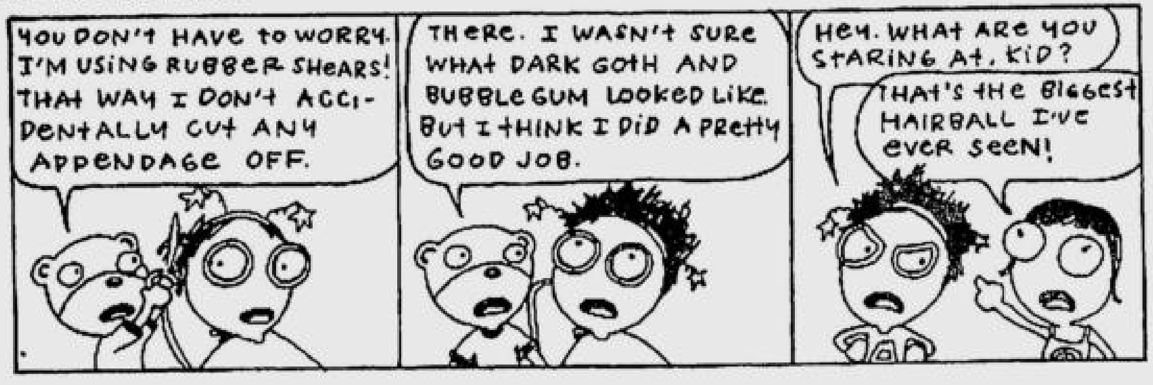
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMMY, I THOUGHT WE'D START OFF WITH THE INK BLOT TEST.
TELL ME, WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE TO YOU?
SOMETHING I LEFT IN YOUR WAITING ROOM.
10/8

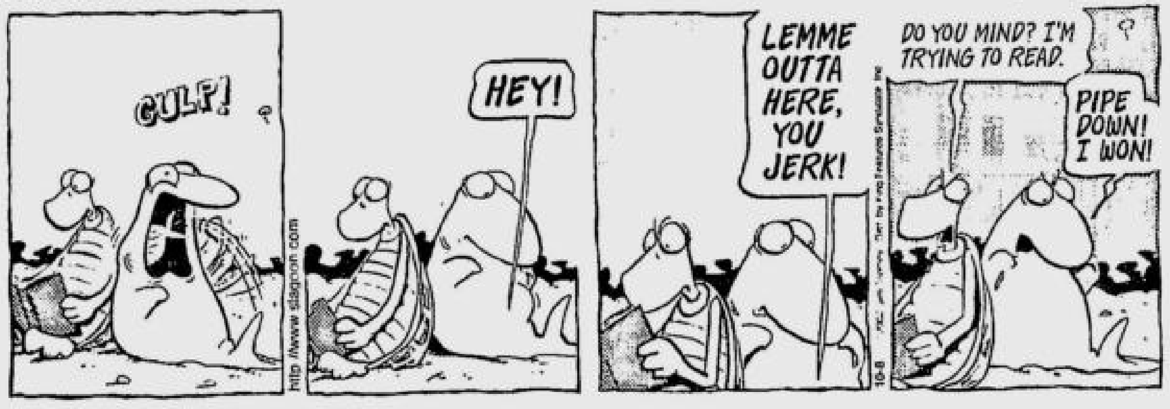
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. I'M USING RUBBER SHEARS! THAT WAY I DON'T ACCIDENTALLY CUT ANY APPENDAGE OFF.
THERE. I WASN'T SURE WHAT DARK GOTH AND BUBBLE GUM LOOKED LIKE. BUT I THINK I DID A PRETTY GOOD JOB.
HEY. WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT, KID?
THAT'S THE BIGGEST HAIRBALL I'VE EVER SEEN!

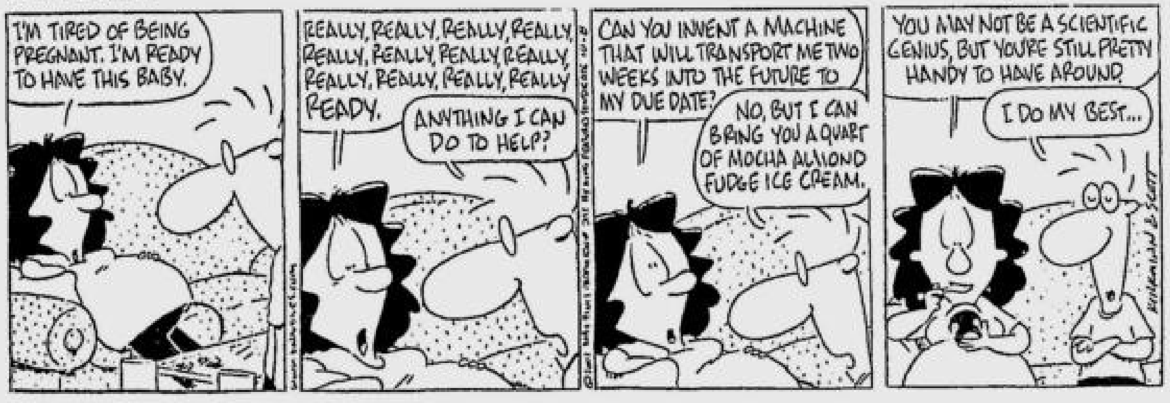
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


GULP!
HEY!
LEMME OUTTA HERE, YOU JERK!
DO YOU MIND? I'M TRYING TO READ.
PIPE DOWN! I WON!
http://www.slagoon.com
10-8

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M TIRED OF BEING PREGNANT. I'M READY TO HAVE THIS BABY.
REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY READY.
ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?
CAN YOU INVENT A MACHINE THAT WILL TRANSPORT ME TWO WEEKS INTO THE FUTURE TO MY DUE DATE?
NO, BUT I CAN BRING YOU A QUART OF MOCHA ALMOND FUDGE ICE CREAM.
YOU MAY NOT BE A SCIENTIFIC GENIUS, BUT YOU'RE STILL PRETTY HANDY TO HAVE AROUND.
I DO MY BEST...

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: David Carradine, Jesse Jackson, Paul Hogan, Sigourney Weaver

Happy Birthday: You must let go of the past and start anew. It's time for new contacts and new beginnings. Allow your creative side to take over. Focus on the things you know you can accomplish and let the difficult tasks wait until you are more in control of your life. Your numbers are 9, 13, 24, 26, 35, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This may be the time when other people ask you for assistance. Even if you aren't interested, try to show some enthusiasm and pitch in. There will be incentives and awards for work well done.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your actions and words may be giving your partner good reason for jealousy. It's time to have an honest dialogue. Being absent from home may be the root of the problem.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't allow minor infections to go unattended or they will get worse. Tend to them immediately. An old flame may reappear on the scene.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't live in the past. If you go out with friends, you will meet new lovers. This is the time for new beginnings. You can improve your looks with a little extra care.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't be afraid to ask everyone to pitch in and help. If you're willing to do the work yourself, the renovations will be affordable. If you are driving or operating heavy equipment, be careful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can be of great service to someone you have known for a long time. You are familiar with their situation. Your insight into their problem will be based on your own personal experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Extravagance will be your downfall. If you lose money you will be upset and angry. Use your added discipline to accomplish those personal goals you've been thinking about.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotional frustration will mount if you don't get your way. Think before you speak. If you really care about this partnership and want it to last, compromise will be the order of the day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Carefully look at your personal papers. Money will not be as abundant as you anticipated. Reassess your needs. You will need to budget a little tighter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you are overly hasty in making choices about friendships, you will live to regret your choices. Slow down. You need to stabilize your life. Try to keep the peace with everyone for the time being.

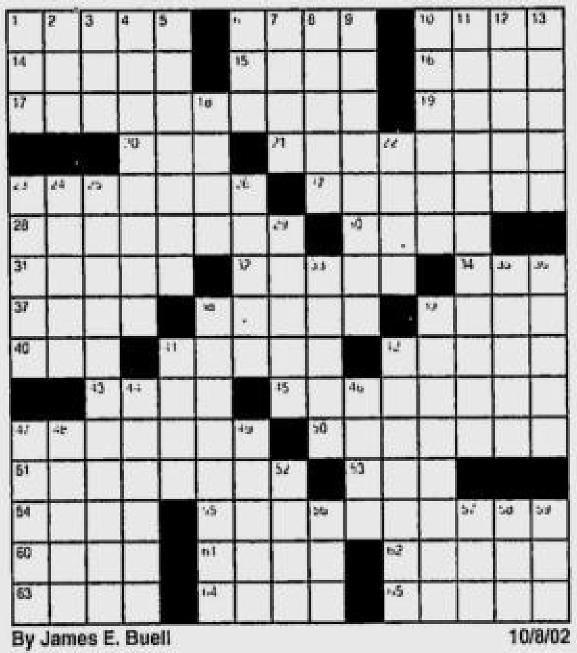
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful what you say to whom and don't give information that you wish to keep a secret. New love attractions will develop through family or friends. Travel opportunities appear to be quite favorable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Travel will initiate new friendships and new possibilities. Do some reading. If you need some answers, look to good friends for sound advice.

Birthday Baby: You will be determined to follow your heart and live by your rules. You will be bound to your beliefs and will not deviate from them. You will be a tough competitor throughout life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

10/8/02

ACROSS
1 Blows one's own horn
6 Declines
10 Small vipers
14 Neighbor of Canton
15 Bound upward
16 Glaswegian
17 Few
19 Hall and Oates hit, "__ Smile"
20 Leather punch
21 Beer bash
23 Tub accessory
27 Artificial streams
28 Lifted forcefully from below
30 Equal to the task
31 Played over
32 Pungent greens
34 Jurisprudence
37 Wilbur Post's nag
38 Hums along
39 Newcastle's river
40 Pro vote
41 Ink-jet alternative
42 Toy with
43 Skip over
45 Disarmed, as a bull
47 Scolded
50 Strawberry and Dawkins
51 Radiation bordering on microwave
53 Sandhurst sch.
54 Crow's cousin
55 Few
60 Gumshoe's lead
61 Metric meas.
62 Family member
63 Arduous
64 List entry
65 Fortune deck

DOWN
1 Forbid
2 "Citizen Kane" studio
3 Gallery draw
4 Prospered
5 Abominable __
6 Slippery __
7 Vulture's tool
8 Deadly poisons
9 Small telescope
10 Set upon
11 Few
12 __-cochere
13 Remains
18 Norwegian king
22 Bars in Basingstoke
23 Myanmar, formerly
24 Foolishness
25 Few
26 Support-line staff
29 Like prunes and raisins
33 Goofed up
35 Photographer Adams
36 Unwanted plants
38 Surfboard's little brother
39 Lizard containers
41 "Close My Eyes Forever" singer Ford
42 Harass
44 Conspicuous
46 Rodgers' collaborator
47 Source for whipping rods
48 __ Gay
49 Relinquish
52 Earnhardt of NASCAR
56 Male turkey
57 Last of cash?
58 Letters for a drill instructor
59 Obtain

Monday's Puzzle Solved

B	E	R	G	■	M	E	T	E	■	C	L	A	P	S
A	R	E	A	■	A	T	R	A	■	I	O	N	I	A
B	O	E	R	■	D	U	E	S	■	N	O	T	E	S
E	D	D	Y	■	M	I	K	E	P	E	T	E	R	S
L	E	S	L	I	E	■	S	L	A	M	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	O	N	E	■	■	G	A	S	P	E	D
A	P	A	R	T	■	L	I	K	E	■	C	O	L	E
B	A	L	S	A	■	M	R	I	■	M	O	O	S	E
E	R	G	O	■	L	O	A	N	■	E	T	H	E	R
D	E	A	N	N	A	■	■	G	N	A	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	O	D	O	R	■	E	L	A	P	S	E
J	O	H	N	N	Y	H	A	R	T	■	D	I	L	L
A	L	O	O	F	■	A	B	E	T	■	A	N	I	L
C	L	A	R	A	■	R	I	T	E	■	M	O	D	E
K	A	R	A	T	■	E	D	E	R	■	S	T	E	N

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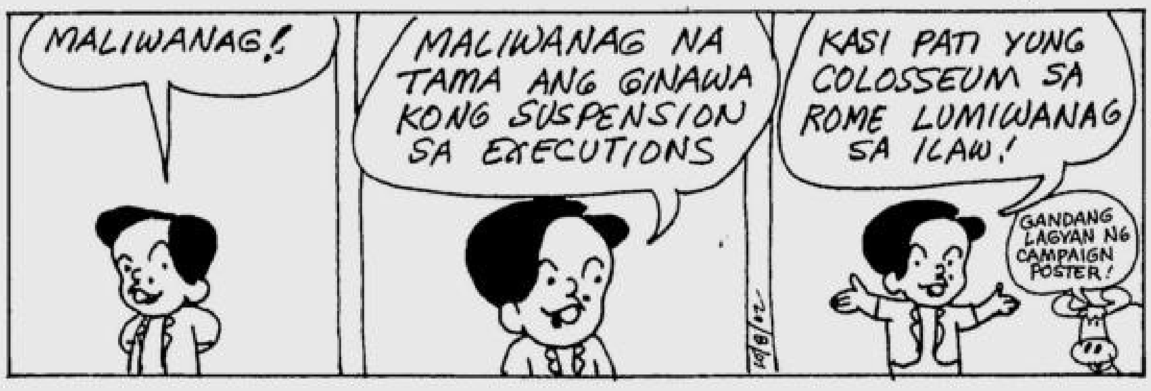
10/8/02

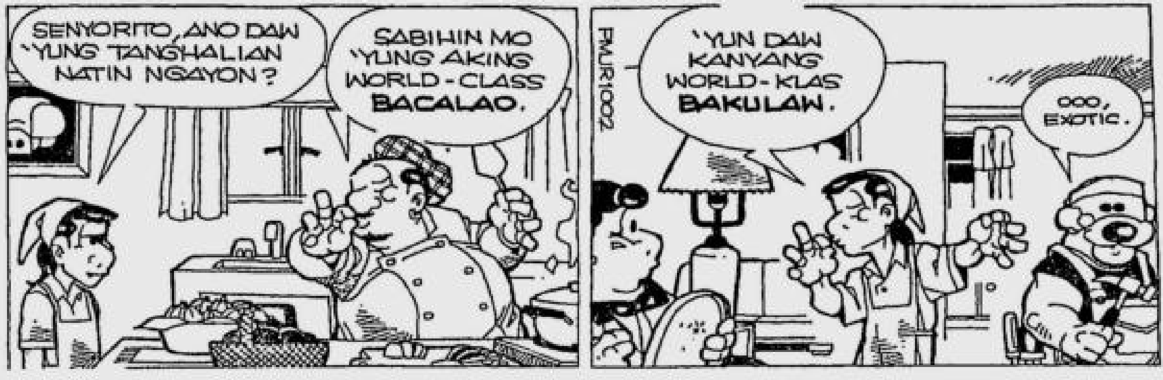
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALIWANAG!
MALIWANAG NA TAMA ANG GINAWA KONG SUSPENSION SA EXECUTIONS
KASI PATI YUNG COLOSSEUM SA ROME LUMIWANAG SA ILAW!
GANDANG LAGYAN NG CAMPAIGN POSTER!

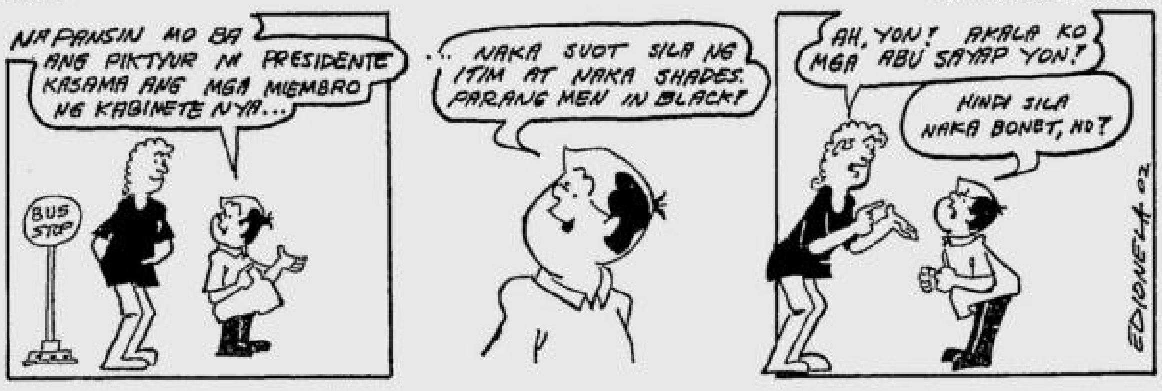
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SENYORITO, ANO DAW 'YUNG TANGHALIAN NATIN NGAYON?
SABIHIN MO 'YUNG AKING WORLD-CLASS BACALAO.
PMJR1002
'YUN DAW KANYANG WORLD-KLAS BAKULAW.
OOO, EXOTIC.

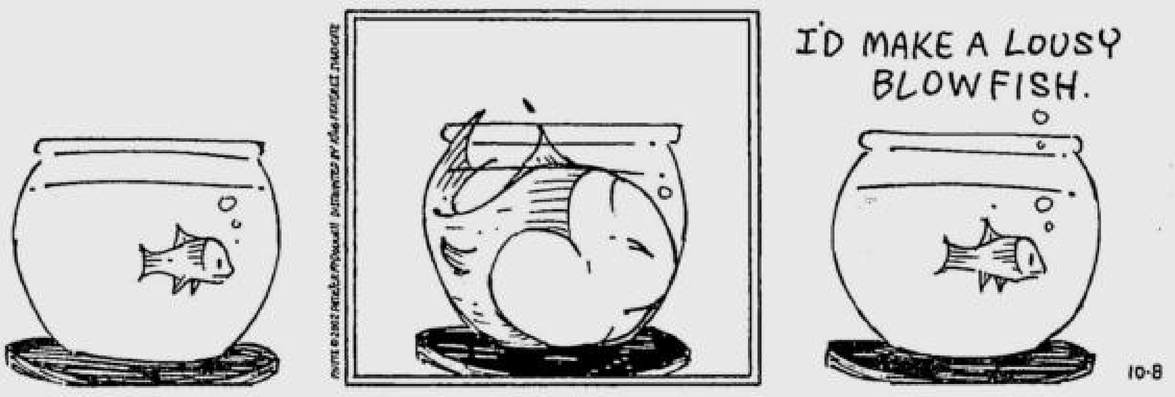
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NA PANSIN MO BA ANG PIKTYUR NI PRESIDENTE KASAMA ANG MGA MIEMBRO NG KABINETE NYA...
BUS STOP
...NAKA SUOT SILA NG ITIM AT NAKA SHADES. PARANG MEN IN BLACK!
AH, YON! AKALA KO MGA ABU SAYAP YON?
HINDI SILA NAKA BONET, NO?
EDIONELA 02

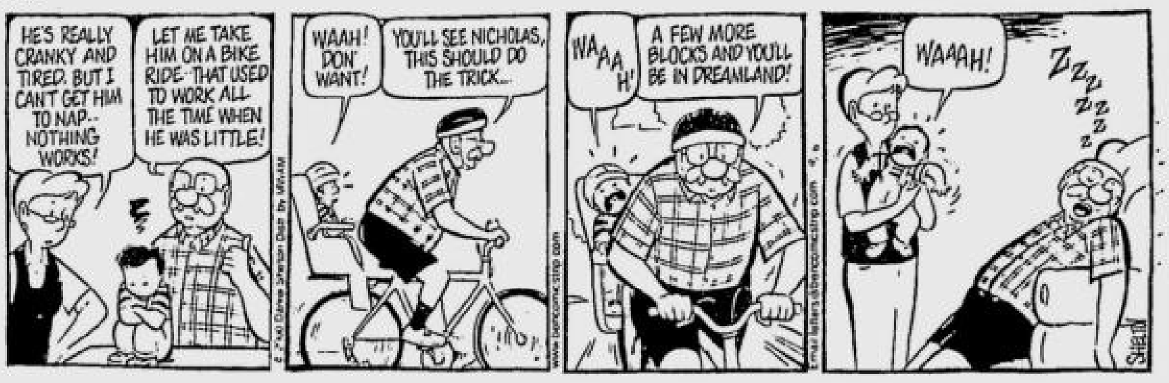
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'D MAKE A LOUSY BLOWFISH.
10-8

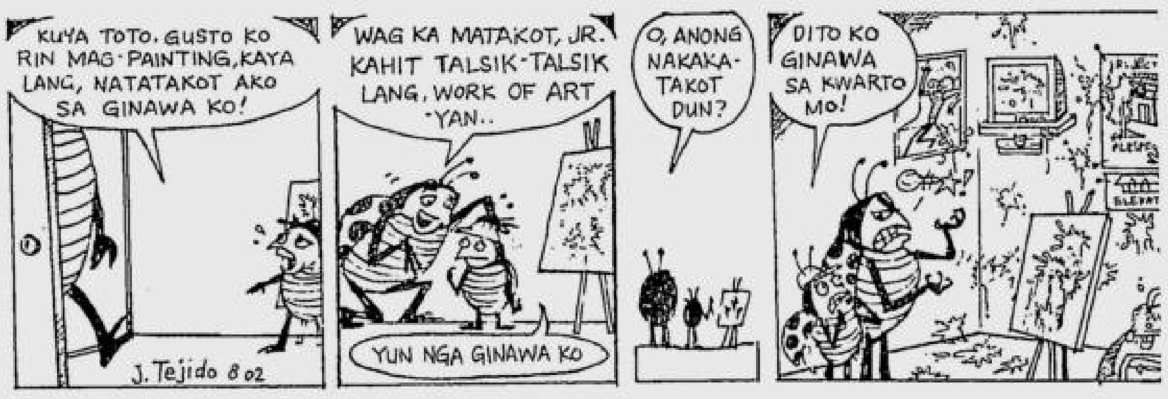
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HE'S REALLY CRANKY AND TIRED. BUT I CAN'T GET HIM TO NAP-- NOTHING WORKS!
LET ME TAKE HIM ON A BIKE RIDE-- THAT USED TO WORK ALL THE TIME WHEN HE WAS LITTLE!
WAAH! DON' WANT!
YOU'LL SEE NICHOLAS, THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK...
WAAAH!
A FEW MORE BLOCKS AND YOU'LL BE IN DREAMLAND!
WAAAH!
ZZZZZZ
www.bencomicstrip.com

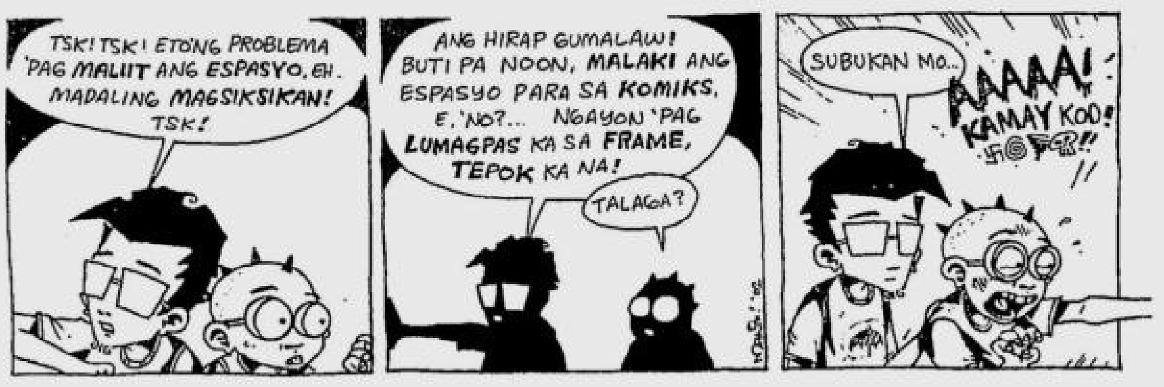
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KUYA TOTO. GUSTO KO RIN MAG-PAINTING, KAYA LANG, NATATAKOT AKO SA GINAWA KO!
J. Tejido 8 02
WAG KA MATAKOT, JR. KAHIT TALSIK-TALSIK LANG, WORK OF ART 'YAN..
YUN NGA GINAWA KO
O, ANONG NAKAKA-TAKOT DUN?
DITO KO GINAWA SA KWARTO MO!

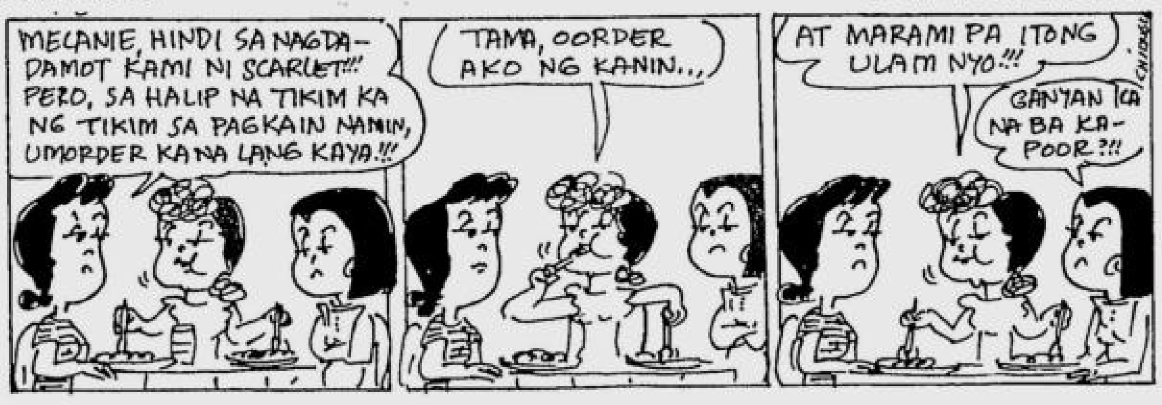
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! TSK! ETONG PROBLEMA 'PAG MALIIT ANG ESPASYO, EH. MADALING MAGSIKSIKAN! TSK!
ANG HIRAP GUMALAW! BUTI PA NOON, MALAKI ANG ESPASYO PARA SA KOMIKS, E, 'NO?... NGAYON 'PAG LUMAGPAS KA SA FRAME, TEPOK KA NA!
TALAGA?
SUBUKAN MO...
AAAAA! KAMAY KOO!

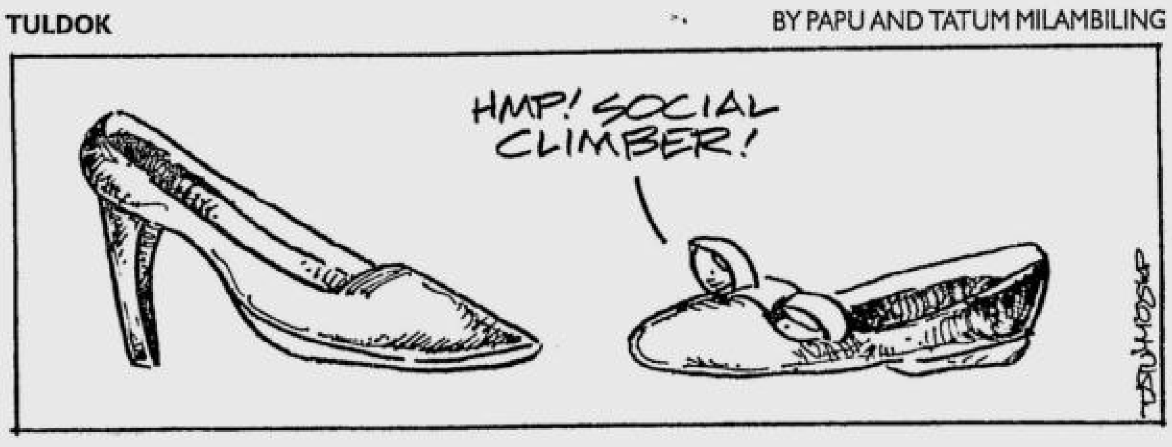
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MELANIE, HINDI SA NAGDA-DAMOT KAMI NI SCARLET!!! PERO, SA HALIP NA TIKIM KA NG TIKIM SA PAGKAIN NAMIN, UMORDER KA NA LANG KAYA!!!
TAMA, OORDER AKO NG KANIN...
AT MARAMI PA ITONG ULAM NYO!!!
GANYAN KA NA BA KA-POOR?!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HMP! SOCIAL CLIMBER!

Stopping the clock

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

AGING. There, I have said it—the word many dread. And the universal images it evokes—gray hair, wrinkles, increased body fat, a decline in physical attraction, strength and stamina, a lack of zest in life—are enough to discourage you from even thinking about the prospects of growing old.

But it doesn't have to be that way because there are many things you can do right now in order to look younger and feel better. And in the process, delay the onset of aging.

There are three ways to look at your age:

Physical age or chronological age corresponds to the number of years you have been on this planet.

Biological age is the actual state of health your body is in and it can defy your physical age. In short, you can be 40 but may have the body of a 20-year-old.

Psychosocial age means that you can challenge your chronological and biological age by the attitude and sense of joy with which you embrace life. "You are as young as you feel."

Can you picture all three ages in you? You are 40 with the body of a 20-year-old and the outlook of a sixteener!

5 ways to feel younger:

1. Release anger and hatred.
2. Adopt a sense of child-like wonder and newness everyday of your life.
3. Have a grateful heart.
4. Love enough by avoiding destructive people and situations.
5. Believe in dreams by listening to your heart.

Kinder to men

Time and all the ravages it brings are indeed kinder to men. So is society. In a world that puts a premium on youth, men are allowed to grow older but women are not. Thus, it is not uncommon to say that a man ages with grace but a woman ages. Full stop. When a man develops gray hair, he is distinguished; gray in a woman is taken to mean she is aging.

Develop a battle plan

Right now, you can literally stop the clock through a well thought-out plan:

- Change your lifestyle: sleep earlier, eat healthier and do daily physical action.
- Take your basic antioxidants: A, C, E and a multivitamins-mineral supplements.
- Practice meditation-relaxation technique twice daily.
- Mingle with an intellectually-stimulating crowd.
- Find a purpose in life. Do charity/civic work, volunteer in your nearest Rotary Club.

If there is any one "single youth drug" according to "Age Erasers For Women"—a book from the editors of Prevention Magazine and Rodale Center For Women's Health—it's sweat. And how much exercise do you need? For serious fitness buffs, a minimum of 40 minutes, three times a week. However, low-level activity like climbing the stairs or walking for 10 minutes two times a day adds up and "will erase many of the problems that make you old before your time." It can also prevent the beginnings of hypertension, diabetes, osteoporosis and heart disease.

What causes aging?

Sun exposure without the use of a sunblock equals premature wrinkles (minimum: SPF 15). Smoking robs your body of vitamin C, the main ingredient your skin needs to stay young. Lack of brain stimulation can slow down your mind and your reflexes. Abusing your body with alcohol and drugs will wear you down.

What can literally "depress" your immune system is depression, a loss of faith in yourself. Connecting with yourself on the mirror is the surest and fastest way to combat depression. Practice opposites. If your reflection is sad, then smile. If you are angry, then lighten up. If you are downright gloomy, then force yourself to laugh out loud. This will instantly relieve you of tension. It may sound crazy but it works.

Ageless ritual

Virgin coconut oil, almond oil or olive oil applied liberally throughout your body can literally erase years from your skin. You may massage it on either warm or at room temperature after a shower. Allow it to be absorbed by your naked body for an hour. Take this time to relax and listen to soothing music. Rinse afterwards.

Age, they say, is simply an illusion. And while according to gerontologists, life expectancy is supposed to reach the ideal 110-120 years, we might want to think about spending all this time with as much joy as possible. After all, there are many ways to age. As Gen. Douglas MacArthur had put it, "No one grows old because of the number of their years. They grow old because they lose their ideals. Time might wrinkle the skin but losing your ideals will wrinkle the soul."

> Sweat it out, lighten up and find a purpose in life

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Love and light!

"Total Wellness," the body, mind and spirit workshop with Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino at Magellan Room of Discovery Suites, Ortigas Pasig City is on Oct. 26, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 645-3706 and look for Cristy for reservations.

E-mail the author at coryquirino_fy@yahoo.com

Personal observations . . .

From page C1

weight, stay away from high-sugar drinks because they can easily pile up 500 calories a day.

Bicycles

After getting stuck in traffic at 5 p.m. and watching hundreds of factory workers pass us by in bicycles, it was apparent that part of the answer to why the Chinese stay slim in spite of eating fatty pig's knuckles, roasted duck and goose, and fried rice, is because they burn up the calories through physical activity.

I don't mean to suggest that you can eat whatever you want and still lose weight by exercising because, more often than not, that is not the case. It is easy to eat 1,000 calories worth of food but not that easy to exercise it away because of the effort and time required. However, physical activity can help you keep the pounds away and counterbalance the excess calories you eat as long as you don't overdo it.

Western invasion

The International Health Racquet and Sports Association hosted the fitness forum we attended. At the top of the agenda was a discussion on the growing gym market in Asia and the expansion of foreign gym chains into the region. I thought, at the rate that the "other" chains (Western fast-food) are expanding, the gyms are going to have a lot of overweight Asian citizenry as clients in the future.

For now though, in Shanghai at least, Chinese restaurants and fast-food stalls outnumber the Western types by a mile. And in the smaller cities like Souzhou, there are few of them. For so long as it stays that way and the Chinese stick to their traditional diets and continue to use those bicycles, they will remain slim. But the day they start eating large Western-size portions and ride around in cars, they will join the rest of the modernized world and have weight problems.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold a Red Cross CPR seminar on Oct. 27 at the Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman. Reservations are required. Call Ivy Abuel at 850-7647.

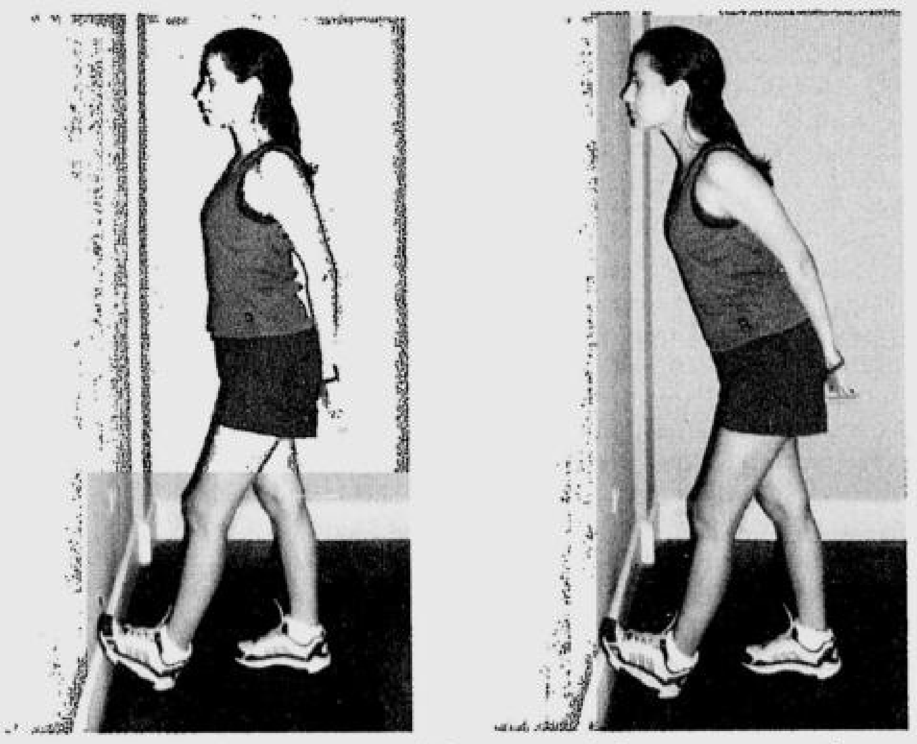
The first Philippine Parenting Convention will be held Oct. 26-29 at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City, Makati. The convention will tackle various parenting topics and issues through an interactive exposition and simultaneous workshops. For more details, visit www.philippineparenting.org or call Rizza at 433-0387.

Watch "In Fitness & In Health" on Studio 23 Mondays to Fridays, 6-6:30 a.m.

For questions or past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com

E-mail the author at fitness@ibm.net

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



'Kiss the wall' calf stretch

STRETCHES the calves or muscles at the back of the lower leg.

Equipment:
Wall, stair rung, or road curbside

Exercise technique:

1. Stand about 2 ft away from a wall. Flex your left foot and place it against the bottom of a wall. Keep your back tall and straight.
2. Lean forward from the hips as if you were trying to kiss the wall.
3. Hold the stretch for 10-30 seconds. Repeat on the other side.

Performance tip:
Lean forward from the hips, not the waist.

ADHD confab slated

THE FIRST Educational Conference of the AD/HD Society of the Philippines addressing the "Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder" (AD/HD) in grade school children will be held on Oct. 24-25.

The conference, to be held at the Ateneo de Manila University Institute of Social Order in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, is titled "Managing AD/HD in the Grade School Classroom." It aims to discuss the important issues of making schools more facilitating environments for special learners with AD/HD.

Expected to attend the conference are more than 200 participants from different sectors—families, educators, guidance counselors, medical practitioners and other professionals nationwide.

Call 913-5470 or 912-7929. Only pre-registered participants will be accommodated.

Sexual encounters with spirits

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

I JUST received a long but very interesting letter from a 42-year-old married woman who is currently taking a second degree in nursing. She wants to know whether her numerous psychic and paranormal experiences are real or merely imaginary. And, secondly, whether she has the potential to reach higher planes of consciousness.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Because her letter is too long, I will just highlight the main points:

1. Since childhood, she has been having flying dreams. Later, she was able to determine if she is dreaming, and therefore, control and manipulate events in her dream.

2. She used to dream of a man with a terrifying look. They would fight and she would always win when she calls on Jesus. But such battles always left her exhausted and mentally drained.

3. One time, she dreamt of another man who was attracted to her sexually. She felt it was an incubus, "but since I know that it was just a dream, I let him have his way with me and I found it very satisfying!" She never told her husband because, "it was only a dream anyway."

But when such sexual encounters in her dream became a nightly occurrence, she told herself in her waking state that she didn't want it anymore, and it stopped immediately. "Maybe I felt guilty," she said. Now, whenever it comes back, she is able to resist it, and it doesn't get consummated. "It just turns into another kind of dream."

4. When she was pregnant with her second child (1986), she felt the presence of spirits and heard voices. She stayed in an apartment where a former tenant's maid died. She cast it out through prayers. The voices and feelings of presence of spirits stopped only after they moved to their present condo in 1997. The "exorcism" dreams still continue up to now but she is able to fight it successfully, "because I have made my faith in God clear to the entities."

She pleads in her letter, "Please tell me that all these are just my imagination, that I don't have the potential for these things. I just want to shut this window, if there is one, especially now that I'm back to my studies. I don't want to see dead people lurking in the hospital or see my dying patients' souls leave their bodies!"

5. "In business, I'm 99 percent correct. That's why my husband lets me handle our finances. Is this a consequence of the paranormal things happening to me?"

Reading this woman's psychic experiences reminds me of the blockbuster movie "The Sixth Sense," starring Bruce Willis and Joel Osment. I specially like that scene in the car where the mother asked her psychic son, "How often do you see them?" (meaning the spirits of the dead) and he replied, "All the time."

Well, what I can tell the letter-sender is this: You are certainly a normal, psychologically healthy woman with highly developed clairvoyant powers. I do not think there's anything mentally wrong with you. What you have experienced are real and have been experienced by normal but highly sensitive individuals all over the world. These are not mere products of your imagination. I know of many documented cases of spirit encounters similar to yours.

Now let me address your specific questions:

1. Flying dreams usually mean that you are flying in your astral body while your physical body is lying in bed or resting on a chair. Knowing you are dreaming and your ability to control and manipulate your dream is called "lucid dreaming." This is an important step towards incubating a dream to solve problems. Yes, you can transform your dreams into problem-solving tools, if you want to.

2. The spirit or astral world is inhabited by two types of spirits: the negative and the positive ones, or the Beings of Light and the Beings of Darkness. What you encountered belong to the Spirits of Darkness. They are found mostly in the lower astral planes.

3. You are lucky that the spirit of a man who got sexually attracted to you was not the evil type or a real incubus. He was probably just a friendly, romantic, earth-bound spirit who wanted to experience sexual pleasure again and got attracted to you, since you are an open channel. He is not the sex maniac and demonic type who forces himself on a woman against her will.

In a sense, what happened was a sexual encounter between two consenting adults, only, in a dream-like state. There's nothing to be guilty about that.

Most women who have had similar sexual experiences with spirits immensely enjoyed them and even have multiple orgasms. That's where the guilt springs from—the feeling of sexual enjoyment even with an incubus.

Definitely, not all sexual encounters with spirits are terrifying or unpleasant. I remember the case of an Italian woman who approached me several years ago. She was then living in Bel-Air, Makati. One night, she was tired and was resting with only her T-shirt on, inside the den on the ground floor of her house. A male spirit came and made love to her while her husband was fast asleep upstairs. She did not resist and she particularly enjoyed the encounter, reaching orgasm several times. So she looked forward to his visit every evening.

Then, he stopped coming to her. And she missed their torrid sexual encounters. She came to me to find out if there's a way to bring the spirit back! That was the first time I ever encountered such a request in my whole career as a researcher of paranormal phenomena. Normally, women would ask how to get rid of such an intruding entity. Here was a woman who was asking precisely the opposite— how to bring the incubus back! Well, I taught her a meditation technique where she would invoke him. I don't know whether she succeeded in doing that because shortly after she consulted me, she went back to Italy.

4. You feel spirit presence and hear voices precisely because you are clairaudient. Those are some of the natural psychic abilities you have.

Since you also see spirits of the dead and can talk to them telepathically, you are also definitely a clairvoyant and have mediumistic tendencies.

Those abilities you have can definitely help you tremendously in your work as a nurse. You can diagnose illness psychically, and cure ailments caused by spirits. You can save lives because of your extraordinary clairvoyant abilities. I cannot understand why you want to shut them out.

You have to experience both the negative and positive side of psychism. You cannot stop these abilities. You can only manage them and direct them toward the good. You are very lucky to have those abilities. Do not try to stop them because you will only get sick if you do. What you should do is use them for your benefit, as well as for others. Learn more about your extraordinary powers and how to control them properly and effectively. Attend seminars by competent instructors.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my new website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Living the 'zero waste' slogan

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

In her unpretentious home in a Manila suburb, Luz Sabas finds uses for things most people would toss into a trash bin

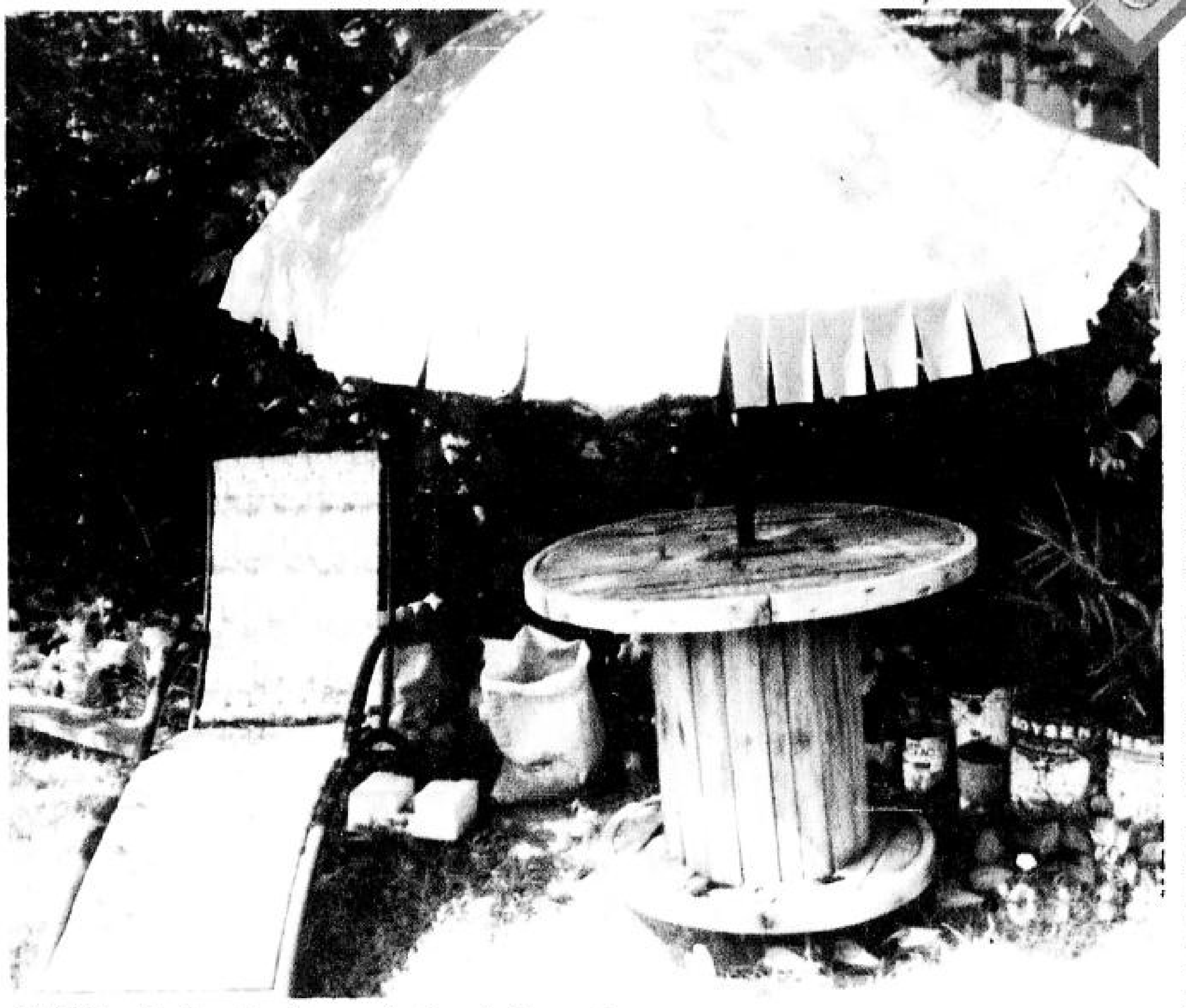
IN LUZ Sabas' home practically nothing goes to waste. While many people, including officials of the Metro Manila Development Authority, think zero garbage is a pipe dream, the seventysomething former nurse has no doubt whatsoever that it is an achievable goal. She has seen it done before Metro Manila's population ballooned and started generating trash in a volume too big for even the most passionate and zealous recyclers. She has also been doing it at home—finding use for every item of waste big or small, from soiled diapers to papaya seeds.

Although Sabas remains modest about her accomplishments while Johnny-and-Jean-comelatelys have been all over the media telling everyone about their more modest recycling efforts, she is considered by many as the true pioneering proponent of zero garbage in the Philippines.

In her unpretentious house in a Manila suburb, Sabas finds uses for things most people would toss into a trash bin. Mango seeds, corncobs and old straw brooms become artificial flowers, old tires reemerge as swing and other play equipment for kids. Empty juice packs have become garden umbrellas and recliners. An unused swimming pool is now a fishpond. Even the concrete slabs on her pathways had waste components.

Sabas has also converted her subdivision's garbage dump into an open-air recreation/activity area. Like a modest Smokey Mountain makeover, piled trash was covered with soil and leveled to serve as a floor, over which a straw and bamboo umbrella-like roof was built. A stream, which used to be filled with sewer waste, has been cleaned up, filled with water hyacinth to filter the water, and seeded with *tilapia*.

In this "reclaimed" dumpsite, she holds regular sessions on recycling for the subdivision's residents, especially household help, teaching them the basics of segregation, recycling and composting.



GARDEN umbrella and recliner made of empty juice packs

Garbage crisis

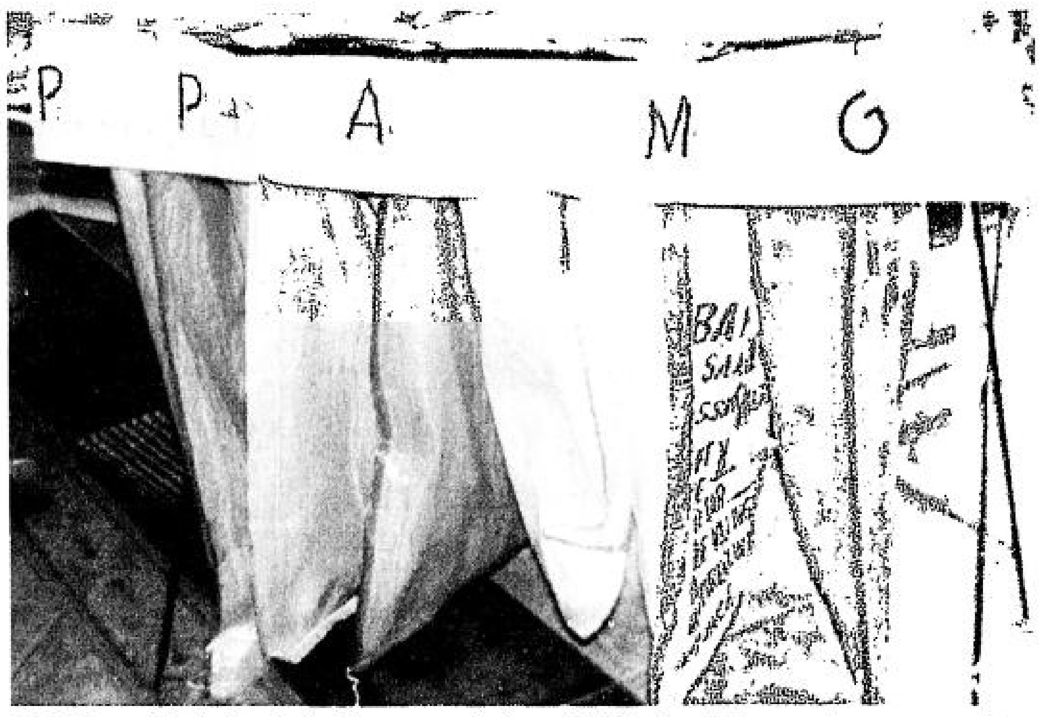
The germ of Sabas' life-long recycling effort was actually planted in the infamous Smokey Mountain back in 1968. Manila had a garbage crisis that year—much too modest by today's standards—when trash collectors went on strike.

The nurse, then a health education supervisor, was tasked to find out what measures could be done to prevent the city from becoming one stinking pile of garbage until the crisis was resolved. Her house-to-house visits to find out what people did with their trash brought her to Balut, Tondo, the city dumpsite at the time. Sabas said, "I saw that everything could be used" in the area, which would later become known throughout the world as the Smokey Mountain.

She discovered that everything brought by garbage trucks: cans, plastic, rubber, broken glass, even bones and rags, were practically fought over, skillfully sorted with iron picks, then sold to waiting buyers of these "factory materials." Women collected the dirt mixed with animal and human waste to use as feed or fertilizer. Twigs and branches, coconut husks and shells, corncobs and remnants of sugar cane became fuel.

The system, Sabas found, was efficient until rapid population growth resulted in an even faster accumulation of waste, overwhelming the scavengers and sorters with its sheer volume. Hence, the rise—and eventually fall—of the Smokey Mountain.

SABAS, the septuagenarian green warrior



SACKS are labeled at Sabas' home so the household help will know where to put what.

EMPTY juice packs become a sturdy shopping bag while used straws make an attractive curtain.

She also learned some simple technologies households had developed to minimize their trash, like reusing containers and bags, making something out of seeds, etc. As a result of the "learning exercise," Sabas has drawn up a scheme she calls Total Recycling through the 4Fs Classification. This involves the retrieval, sorting, using and reusing of "factory returnables, feed, fertilizer and fuel materials" from trash. She calls this ecological resource, rather than waste management. And Sabas said, this total utilization of wastes was possible everywhere—in households, schools, offices, markets, etc.

Basic steps

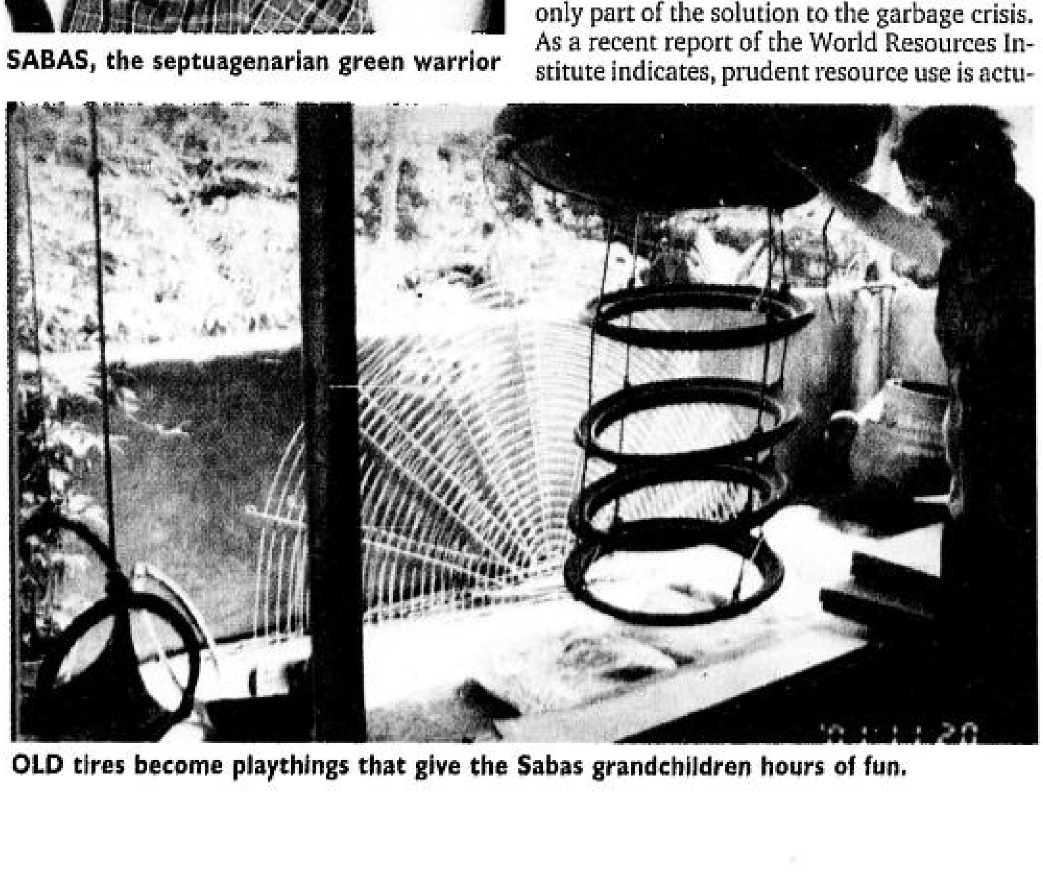
The process involves three basic steps: (1) sort at source, (2) package properly, and (3) use/dispose of ecologically (this means no burning, no open-dumping). Sorting is meant to separate the *nabubulok* or biodegradable from the *hindi nabubulok* or nonbiodegradable. After waste has been sorted, the right container—sack, can, bags, etc.—that will facilitate sanitary, efficient handling, storage, transport or disposal of waste is chosen. The garbage is then used/reused/recycled as compost, factory returnables, animal feed, fuel, handicraft material and even filling materials.

Sabas stresses the importance of sorting. She pointed out that allowing the collection of mixed or unsorted trash and dumping it in an open pit encourages unsanitary scavenging activities. People who make their livelihood collecting recyclable items from dump sites scatter the waste leading to various health, ecological, economic and aesthetic problems.

Of course, efficient waste management is only part of the solution to the garbage crisis. As a recent report of the World Resources Institute indicates, prudent resource use is actually important—the less resources are consumed the less garbage is generated. The report, The Weight of Nations, stressed that there was no quick and-easy solution to the garbage problem and people would have to prepare themselves for a protracted struggle. It noted that even the determined efforts of industrialized countries to reduce waste, was reaping, at best, modest results.

"Industrial economies are becoming more efficient in their use of materials, but waste generation continues to increase," the report said. "Overall resource use and waste flows into the environment continued to grow... [and] one-half to three-quarters of annual resource inputs to industrial economies are returned to the environment as wastes within a year."

Recycling is a low-cost, low-tech solution to the garbage problem but it requires a lot of patience to get people to adopt the habit. Sabas has to constantly monitor, remind and reeducate people. That's probably why the country's officials, who have the responsibility to handle the garbage problem, prefer the high-tech, expensive solutions even if questions are being raised about their effects on the environment.



OLD tires become playthings that give the Sabas grandchildren hours of fun.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

I will be temporarily assigned to our company's Cebu office for the coming next three months. Just in case I need to, can I avail of MEDICard services there?

Yes you may. Because of MEDICard's **OPEN DOOR POLICY**, members may avail of their required medical care at any accredited hospital nationwide. In the Cebu City area alone, we have more than six accredited hospitals. We also have a Cebu satellite office that members may reach at (032) 253-5031 for questions and assistance.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Gina V. Panuncialman is MEDICard's accredited specialist based at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital (UST) in España, Manila. Dr. Panuncialman finished Medicine at UST and pursued her specialization training in Internal Medicine also at the UST Hospital. She also subspecializes in Medical Oncology and Hematology, finishing her residency training from both UST Hospital and Veterans Memorial Medical Center. Doc Gina, who has been in the medical profession for more than 15 years is married to businessman Mac Franceau and has been blessed with two children, Mac Julien and Francis Antonio. She is a Diplomate and Fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology. You may visit her clinic for your consultation needs at Room 6008 every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2 to 5 in the afternoon.

Recently accredited MEDICard pediatric specialist is **Dr. Lilia M. Yu.** Dr. Yu, known also as Doc Lily is based at the San Pedro Hospital in Davao City. She is a graduate of Medicine from the Davao Medical School Foundation and took her residency training for her specialization in Pediatrics at the San Pedro Hospital. She also subspecializes in Pediatric Hematology, where she took her residency training at the Children's Medical Center of the Philippines. Dr. Yu is a member of the Philippine Pediatric Society-Davao & Southern Mindanao Chapter, the Philippine Medical Association and the Philippine Society of Hematologists and Blood Transfusion. You may visit her for your consultation needs at her clinic, Room 304 of the Medical Arts Building, San Pedro Hospital from Mondays to Fridays except Thursdays, 9 AM to 12 noon and from 2 to 4 in the afternoon, and during Saturdays from 9 AM to 12 noon.

Meet MEDICard accredited dentist **Dr. Mary Joan B. Magno.** Doc Joan, as she is known to her patients is a Dentistry graduate from Centro Escolar University. She specializes in Orthodontics and has been in the practice of which for more than four years now. During her free time, she is fond of reading pocket books, exercising at the gym and biking. You may visit her clinic, Denta Medica for your dental healthcare needs located at 133-A Bonifacio Avenue, Tanong, Marikina City from Mondays to Fridays, 1 in the afternoon until 7 in the evening.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e -mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

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